Daily Report

Latin America

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Latin American, European Parliaments Hold Biannual Meeting

Cuban Deputy Criticizes 'Generic References'

PY0605234493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1413 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Sao Paulo, 4 May (EFE)—Cuban Deputy Osvaldo Martinez, who is participating in the 11th European and Latin American Interparliamentary Conference, requested of his colleagues today, 4 May, that with respect to Cuba they "not try to give us lessons in democracy and leave us alone."

Martinez criticized generic references to the Cuban situation at the biannual joint meeting of European and Latin American parliaments, the delegations of which are in most cases from multiparty systems.

"We do not accept the existence of a universal model applicable to all situations," Martinez said. He added that "our system is democratic and representative" and was put to the test during the recent legislative elections.

The Cuban deputy said that although voting is not compulsory, 99 percent of voters did cast their votes and that "the internal opposition, influenced by the United States," failed to achieve more than 7 percent of the votes.

Martinez said that there is a gap between the high-level European-Latin American political dialogue and economic cooperation, which today shows figures proportionally lower than those achieved 20 years ago.

According to the Cuban deputy, Latin American nations receive only 7 or 8 percent of the total of European Community (EC) aid for developing nations.

He also complained about the surtaxes imposed by the EC on Latin American export products such as bananas, sugar, and dairy products and urged the EC to adopt a position more independent from the United States concerning foreign debt.

Conference Issues Final Declaration

PY0605230293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0715 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Sao Paulo, Brazil, 6 May (EFE)—The final declaration of the biannual meeting of the European and Latin American Interparliamentary Conference, which is to be issued today in Sao Paulo, advocates a prompt conclusion to the GATT Uruguay Round talks.

A European deputy, a member of the drafting committee, informed EFE that the declaration follows the demands of Latin American delegates that Latin American products have easy access to the EC and other developed countries.

In its 10 pages, the final declaration of the 11th European and Latin American Interparliamentary Conference, held in Sao Paulo from 3 to 6 May, reviews Latin American and European economic and political ties and how to strengthen them.

Although the interparliamentary conference has been the only means of dialogue between Europe and Latin America for two decades and has encouraged the establishment of other forums, such as that established by the governments in 1990, the 11th European and Latin American Interparliamentary Conference has established a permanent committee in charge of coordinating the implementation of different recommendations and suggestions during the periods between conferences.

The delegates complained about "a vacuum in the follow-up to agreements adopted by the different interparliamentary conferences" on a wide range of issues such as economic ties (trade, debt, investments); the environment; and cooperation for development and drug control.

The Interparliamentary Conference Permanent Committee will be devoted to implementing the resolutions, to helping improve the EC-Rio Group (a Latin American consensus mechanism) dialogue at the government level that was established in 1990 through the Declaration of Rome, and to developing multilateral cooperation among EC and existing Latin American institutions.

According to the draft of the final declaration, these institutions will develop health, environment, drug control, economic cooperation, democratic participation, human rights, cultural, education, and housing development programs.

The declaration will also include a proposal through which foreign debt contracts signed by Latin American governments with international creditors may be subjected to an eventual decision of the International Court in The Hague and the UN General Assembly.

It will also express concern over increasing racism and xenophobia in Europe and restrictions to the entrance of Ibero-Americans.

The declaration will also discuss environmental deterioration issues such as desertification, deforestation of tropical rain forests, urban contamination, and the treatment of toxic industrial wastes.

Under the initiative of European delegations, the document will urge the EC and member governments to increase economic cooperation ties with Ibero-America to improve the standards of living and human rights of millions of people.

According to statistics submitted to the 11th biannual meeting, about 250 million people are living under the poverty line in Latin America.

The declaration will also suggest the establishment of an Ibero-American community of nations that will act as the region's representative before other country blocs.

The only resolution that has been approved expresses the concern of the 11th interparliamentary conference over the upcoming general elections in Paraguay scheduled for 9 May and requests Paraguayan officials to respect the elections results.

On 4 May European Parliament President Egon Klepsch personally delivered this resolution to Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez.

Cuba

ANPP Vice President Cited on Administrative Councils

FL0605225993

[Editorial Report] Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish at 0100 GMT on 5 May carries live its "Open Agenda" program with host Antonio Resillez and guest Jaime Crombet, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP].

Resillez begins the program by asking Crombet why the executive committees were replaced with the administrative councils and the difference between the two. Crombet says that the executive committees played a role in perfecting the people's government. Crombet adds that, at the moment, the administrative councils cannot be judged for their capacity to solve material problems because of the special period. Crombet points out the aspects that are to be considered: organization, efficiency, and speed to confront problems. He says that not all members of the administrative councils are delegates to the municipal or provincial assemblies and that presently the president and vice president of the assemblies preside over the administrative councils but there is a possibility that in the future other individuals might occupy these two posts. He adds that the rest of the members of the administrative council do not necessarily need to be members of the assembly. This, Crombet adds, allows them to select comrades that have the qualifications needed for a specific post.

Crombet highlights that there are several vice presidents, according to the extension of the province or municipality. He adds that two of them oversee health and education. Crombet says that representatives of important organizations in the region also belong to the administrative council.

Crombet says that the executive committees had taken over the assembly's role of inspection and control of the administrative performance. He adds that there was a confusion between the administrative and executive roles. He further adds that municipal and provincial administrative councils account to the municipal or provincial assemblies.

Answering Resillez's question on the formalities that these councils are supposed to eliminate, Crombet says that after talking to many deputies, delegates, and voters they saw the need to perfect the assessment meetings of the district delegates. Speaking of the assessment meetings, Crombet says: "We need to define these assessment assemblies of district delegates with their voters as the most important meeting in the neighborhood or the community, where the political leader elected by the masses is accountable to his voters and also counsels his voters on the tasks that need to be carried out."

Crombet says that these meetings, which are held twice a year, are too important to be used to only answer the concerns of the residents. These people's concerns should not be allow to accumulate until an assessment meeting is held. Crombet says that if the delegate is in contact with his voters he does not have to wait for the next assembly to give answers. He says that some of the issues to be discussed in these meetings are of national, provincial, or municipal importance and that the meetings should have a flexible format.

Crombet adds that the assessment meetings were postponed until September and October to give their members more time to prepare because many things have recently taken place in very quick succession.

Resillez asks what projects the ANPP is working on. Crombet says that the ANPP has chosen two main issues. First, the energy program. Crombet adds that the ANPP recently formed a temporary commission on the energy problem, which he presides. Each provincial assemblies is to form temporary commissions on the energy problem. Eventually, they will be formed in every municipality. Crombet adds: "We are trying to develop a new national consciousness of the economic, social, and political importance of the energy problems."

Crombet says that a greater effort has to be made to use energy efficiently. Crombet talks about the power outages that are caused by power plant breakdowns and fuel shortages. Crombet adds: "Our people need to be prepared for possibly even greater difficulties in the energy sector."

When asked about the date for the period of sessions of the ANPP, Crombet says that they will possibly be held between 28 and 30 June

Crombet says that the other issue is the evaluation of the operation of the People's Councils. He adds: "This is a new institution of great importance and value." Crombet adds that they can see the great potential of these councils everyday. Crombet stresses the importance of generalizing this experience. Crombet underscores that these two issues will be discussed at all levels.

Resillez asks about the ANPP's involvement in international issues. Crombet says that the ANPP has a very strong international movement. He says that many delegations are visiting Cuba. Crombet adds that they are planning to strengthen their ties with all the parliaments of the world. He says that the ANPP will form a commission on foreign relations. He adds that their work will focus on defending Cuban sovereignty and independence, the fight against the embargo, promoting solidarity, and defending Cuban interests. Open Agenda concludes at 0128 GMT.

Gen. Raul Castro Congratulates Granma Province on MTT Fund Drive

FL0705011093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has sent congratulations to the people of Granma Province for being the first province to reach its fund drive to help finance the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT] this year.

Granma Province, [words indistinct], concluded the month of April by raising more than 1.5 million pesos. In Bayamo, Alfredo Enriquez Pina, the top leader of the Communist Party of Cuba in Granma Province, read the letter to the Cuban Workers Federation, the trade unions, the Union of Young Communists, and the main leaders in Granma.

[Begin Enriquez recording] We thanked him on behalf of all the people and in addition we stressed to him the series of problems we were facing, but we stressed to him that he could rest assured that as always we would make the maximum effort in a very close union to direct the worker to give the impetus where we need it most. [end recording]

Enriquez spoke at a meeting where he announced the mobilizations of more than 10,000 residents, beginning on 10 May and until the end of this month, to weed sugarcane and miscellaneous crops. In Granma, it is important to weed 3,100 caballerias in sugarcane and more than 600 caballerias in miscellaneous crops. This will guarantee sugarcane recovery and the supplies of grain and vegetables to the population in Granma Province.

Clinton Administration Said Not To Show Signs of Abandoning Blockade Policy

FL0605195993 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 May 93

[Commentary by PRENSA LATINA reporter Martin Hutchins]

[Text] While the Clinton administration, in its first three months in power, has not stepped up the tone of the rhetoric against Cuba, like previous administrations, neither has it given signs that it might abandon the blockade policy. As a matter of fact, the Cuban issue continues under the control of power and interest groups in Washington and Miami. Between the conservative wing, which works to increase hostility, and sectors that favor an improvement in relations or at least lean toward mitigating the restrictions, with the difference that today, this last group is now larger and is more influential. [sentence as heard]

Immobility was the noun used by Carlos Alzugaray, adviser to the Cuban Foreign Ministry and an expert on the subject, to describe the first 100 days of President Bill Clinton in the White House. He said that the Clinton administration will not significantly change the policy against Cuba. Once, it even expressed support for the Torricelli Law, enacted last October by George Bush, to strengthen the blockade but has lowered the tone of the rhetoric of confrontations of the previous governments and has not increased pressures.

This tone was better defined when Clifford Wharton, deputy secretary of state for the western hemisphere, following instructions from the executive, said this week to the Americas Council that his government rejects efforts to promote changes in Cuba through violence, although he stated that their policy, based on the Torricelli Law, is to reject the revolutionary government of Fidel Castro.

Certain analysts believe Washington is using attrition tactics judging by Wharton's comments that the time will soon come when the Cuban Government will not be able to resist the political pressure. Nevertheless, this position is opposed by two strong sectors. On one side the right wing, which, although it does not openly express its opposition, is dissatisfied by the lack of an escalation and increases its pressures through different means to achieve greater hostility in the same degree that Cuba resists the blows of the embargo and the collapse of the Socialist Bloc.

An example of this is the bill by Representative Lincoln Diaz-Ballart, who is of Cuban origin, approved at the subcommittee of the Western Hemisphere of the House, aimed at internationalizing the so-called embargo and which demands that the U.S. Government submit the case of Cuba before the United Nations.

Very few are willing to bet on this plan since the United Nations has already made a ruling on the embargo imposed 31 years ago, and even the main allies of the United States, such as Great Britain, Canada, and France, among others, are not willing to cut off trade with Havana.

There are other sectors that for their own reasons also oppose the present policy and call for lifting sanctions against Cuba, either because they truly want the normalization of relations or because in this they see an opportunity to weaken and ultimately destroy the revolution, a group that Alzugaray illustratively calls: friendly subversion.

Among the initiatives that have emerged from those different interest groups is the Bergman Bill, which proposes eliminating certain aspects of the embargo to promote trade and travel. Representative Charles Rangel is also considering presenting a bill to lift the blockade. At the fringes of the political arena, the so-called Inter-American Dialogue, a think tank made up of [illegible] politicians, former leaders of the Americas, [illegible] certain members of the Clinton administration, recommended a partial suspension of the blockade. Likewise, pressure by solidarity, humanitarian, and religious organizations is increasing in the United States against what they believe is an absurd and hostile policy and they demand a change.

Meanwhile, the revolutionary government of Havana has reiterated its disposition and willingness to establish a dialogue as long as it is on the basis of respect for sovereignty So far the present U.S. Administration seems to lean, however, toward continuing a policy that started 34 years ago in Washington and favor the success in Congress or in some of its commissions of anti-Cuban legislation, as the one recently submitted by Representative Diaz- Ballart.

Tourism, Sugar Industry Said Most 'Severely' Harmed by Economic Blockade

PA0605143593 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0745 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Havana, 5 May (EFE)—Tourism and the sugar industry are among the sectors most severely harmed by the economic blockade decreed by the United States against Cuba over 30 years ago, which has cost the island over $40 billion.

The Institute for Economic Research linked to the Central Planning Board (Juceplan) released a report on 4 May on the direct harm caused by the blockade until mid-1990, describing the figures as "conservative" because only reliable, quantifiable information was used.

It is the first time the total losses caused by the measures in question were officially and jointly evaluated, because on other occasions only partial figures on damages in certain specific areas were revealed.

The consequences of the search for new markets for foreign trade represented for Cuba a loss of $5.9207 billion; the sugar industry lost $4.676 billion; and the tourism industry lost $3.5078 billion.

According to the study, the embargo forced Cuba to search for new markets abroad for its products, which raised promotion and sales expenses and quintupled the average distance from the supplying markets to approximately 11,000 km.

Prior to the blockade the nearness of the market, stable ties with traditional suppliers, and the ease of communications and transportation between Cuba and the United States explained why the island did not need to store large reserves and industrial replacement parts as they were almost always immediately supplied, the Juceplan report adds.

Likewise, the reduction of the sugar quota, the island's leading economic sector, and the loss of the product's preferential price on the U.S. market forced Cuba to sell its sugar on the world market at much lower prices, which caused a considerable decline in its income.

The blockade has also had a very negative effect on tourism because Washington does not allow its citizens to travel to the island and limits the expenses of those who for official reasons or "exceptional" situations are authorized to come to Cuba.

U.S. tourists used to represent an average of 86.8 percent of all foreign visitors who visited Cuba prior to the blockade.

Added to this is the U.S. policy of deviating tourism from other nations by encouraging travel agents and international agencies to exclude Cuba as a vacation spot.

The approximately $3.5 billion the country has lost in tourism would have made it possible to renew and expand the hotel network and tourism infrastructure as well as increase the efficiency and quality of services, the report states.

Likewise, monetary-financial losses amount to $3.1275 billion, making them among the most significant losses caused by the blockade.

According to the study, the U.S. measure has also affected the possibility of renegotiating Cuba's foreign debt, which is estimated at approximately $7 billion (until the end of 1989), through the influence Washington has in private banking circles and international financial institutions, which has caused the loss of $3.3027.

The public health sector has also been harmed by the embargo, having lost $105 million.

The country was forced to purchase medicine and medical supplies on other markets at higher prices estimated by the Public Health Ministry to be approximately 20 to 30 percent higher in comparison to prices paid on the U.S. market.

The blockade, the report adds, has prevented Cuba from having access to advanced technology and has blocked all cooperation with the island in this area, which has caused the loss of $2.318 billion.

Other sectors also affected by the embargo but to a lesser extent are sports, communications, and culture.

The blockade began in 1960, one year after Fidel Castro came to power, with the decrease of part of the sugar quota that year, although it became official in 1962 after Washington broke relations with Havana on 3 January 1961.

On 2 January 1962, President John F. Kennedy decreed a total economic embargo that remains to this day.

Cuba is undergoing a serious economic crisis due, among other factors, to the fall of socialism in the Eastern European countries and the disappearance of the USSR, with whom Cuba maintained 85 percent of its foreign trade, which came in addition to the blockade decreed by the United States over 30 years ago.

Latin American Countries Said To Support Request for Medical Assistance

FL0605155693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Many Latin American countries support a draft resolution presented by Cuba to the 46th World Assembly on Health in Geneva on requesting medical assistance for Cuba from the international community. The document states that Cuban medical services were affected by the so-called storm of the century which, on its path through Cuba, caused material damages assessed at more than $1 billion.

The Bolivian health minister, also participating in the world health conference, said he favors medical assistance for Cuba. Denying such help, he said, would be turning their backs on a country that has done so much in that sector for other countries.

Meanwhile, Nafis Sadik, executive director of the UN Population Fund, said that Cuba's policy in that area has been positive for integrating its economic and social development plans. She added that with the United Nations, Cuba, despite its lack of resources, has offered social services to its people and has identified their health problems.

On the other hand, Gert Rosenthal, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, stated that the economic embargo is against a country [words indistinct].

Haiti

PDCH Favors Presidential Elections To Resolve Political 'Crisis'

FL0605172393 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] has come out in favor of presidential elections to resolve the country's political crisis. PDCH says it is ready to go over to the opposition if all the national sectors opt for the return of President Aristide. Sylvio C. Claude's party also offers a verdict on the ongoing negotiations at the conclusion of a conference held at the party premises in Champ-de-Mars, Port-au-Prince. Our colleague GB tells us about it.

[Begin recording] [First unidentified speaker in Creole] If Aristide is chosen, PDCH's stand is clear: it would even be immoral for the PDCH to cooperate with a government supposedly headed by Aristide. Why? Because we believe that the body of Sylvio [referring to late PDCH leader Sylvio C. Claude] is still fresh. It has not yet dried.

[Second unidentified speaker] PDCH believes that to correct the country's mistakes, we must have new presidential—free, really free; honest, really honest; democratic, really democratic—elections. [end recording]

PDCH Chooses Joachin Pierre as New President

FL0605212593 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] In Port-au-Prince, the Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, has chosen Joachin Pierre as its new president. He is the party's former first secretary. He was elected by the PDCH general assembly which met from 28 to 30 April. In one of the resolutions adopted during this congress, the PDCH, a member of the consensus government, dissociated itself from the stand of Prime Minister Marc Bazin. It also adopted the stand of no negotiations for the return to power of the ousted president. The PDCH favors presidential elections. The new PDCH president, who was the minister of social affairs in the Nerette-Honorat government, denounced the attitude of the international community in the Haitian crisis.

[Begin Pierre recording] To make up for the country's mistakes, it will be necessary to hold new presidential elections, free, really free; honest, really honest; and democratic, truly democratic. May the international community finally understand that the Republic of Haiti, a small country of black people, poor in the heart of America and the Caribbean, is not at war with anyone. We want to live in peace with our friends and neighbors.

The government, for as long as my memory can recall, has said that it would be ready to leave power as soon as a prime minister was chosen. The government said this. As far as we are concerned, we favor negotiations, negotiations that are not undertaken the way they are being being handled. Because we see that instead of reaching the objectives that were supposed to be reached, nothing has been done. At first, the embargo was to be solved. We are still under the embargo. We have heard from the authorities about the embargo. We do not know when the solution will come. [end recording]

ACP Members Accuse FNCD Deputies of 'Shirking' Responsibilities

FL0605203593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies has not been able to function normally for five months. The members of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] and the Socialist Bloc accuse the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] deputies of shirking their responsibilities by boycotting the assembly sessions. Deputy Gabriel Sanon thinks that it is time for measures to be taken against those parliamentarians. [passage omitted]

For his part, Deputy Serge Jean-Louis says that the vacant seat policy is being used because, in his opinions, the decisions of the members of the chamber do not bear the mark of any democratic conviction. [passage omitted]

Justice, Peace Commission To Assess Prison Situation

FL0605172093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpt] The Justice and Peace Commission in the Lower Chamber is concerned by the situation in Haitian prisons and is working on the case. Rothschild filed a report:

[Rothschild] The situation of prisoners at the National Penitentiary will be assessed on 7 May in parliament. The Justice Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, and the health, justice, and social affairs ministers must make decisions about the prison system in Port-au-Prince and consider a concerted solution. The deputies, for their part, must make recommendations for improving incarceration conditions at the National Penitentiary. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that prisoners at the National Penitentiary had recently held demonstrations in their cells, demanding better conditions. Last week, deputies of the Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion distributed medicines at the National Penitentiary, provided by the health and development centers.

Jamaica

Local Government Elections To Be Held 'Next Year in June'

FL0605121693 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] There will be no local government elections in Jamaica this year. A bill seeking to put off the elections has been tabled in Parliament. Elections are due to be held in July, according to the Constitution, but Prime Minister P.J. Patterson told his House of Representatives that elections would be put off in order to give the government time to take the steps to make sure the elections run smoothly, and so they will be held next year in June.

Central Bank Improves Reserves Position Over Last Fiscal Year

FL0605153193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1211 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 6, CANA—Jamaica's Central Bank improved its reserves position by more than U.S.170 million dollars over the last fiscal year and seems set to erase the long-standing deficit by next March, according to an analysis by Prime Minister P. J. Patterson.

Patterson told Parliament that at the end of March—when the 1992/93 fiscal year ended—the net international reserves of the (Central) Bank of Jamaica stood at minus U.S.80 million dollars, compared with minus U.S.250.5 million dollars a year earlier.

Patterson said the performance was against an International Monetary Fund (IMF) target for the Cental Bank's net international reserves to improve by U.S.110 million dollars by the end of the 1992/93 fiscal year and an "average of U.S.87 million a year for the three succeeding fiscal years."

Jamaica has had no positive international reserves since the mid-1970's, but cleaning up the external accounts is a major plank of the Patterson administration which has said that it intends to break the cycle of IMF adjustment programmes by the 1994/95 fiscal year. The island has had IMF programmes since 1977. While government officials have pointed to the improved reserves position as a trend of economic indicators heading in the right direction, some economists have argued that it disguised the real situation.

Former Central Bank governor, Dr. Headley Brown, has been foremost among those who have argued that the reserves position of the Central Bank did not take into account growing arrears in the commercial banking system. Brown has said that commercial bank arrears were a significant reason for increasing pressure on the Jamaican dollar and fuelling a black market here. The official exchange rate has remained at J22.20 for U.S.1 dollar for the past year. Commercial bankers have disputed any significant arrears in the system, a position supported by government officials.

Patterson, who has consistently argued that there was "no objective reason" for a devaluation of the Jamaica dollar, pointed out to Parliament the phenomenal growth in foreign exchange accounts under Jamaica's liberalised foreign exchange market. At the end of 1990, these accounts held U.S.19 million dollars. By the end of April, they stood at U.S.380 million. Bankers say that these accounts have been used significantly by Jamaican businesses to meet current liabilities. But anaylsts point out that more foreign exchange going to hard currency accounts has meant a siphoning from the regular market, leaving a shortage for over-the-counter purchasers.

"We must always work towards a proper balance between the disposition of available foreign exchange by way of deposits into foreign currency accounts, and disposition by way of sales into the inter-bank (foreign exchange trading) system," Patterson said. The prime minister said the fact that foreign exchange was being held in Jamaican accounts rather than abroad was "a demonstration of confidence in this new feature of our financial system."

"This confidence is something that we will do everything to nurture and sustain," Patterson remarked. He said that the government was considering new developments to streamline the foreign exchange market to ensure that official and private needs were met in "a balanced and adequate manner." The Central Bank earlier this year abandoned a system of using agents to buy foreign exchange outside the regular commercial banking system

after the discovery of a scam involving agents and a former Central Bank staffer.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Appeals Decision on Muslim Rebels Involved in 1990 Coup Attempt

FL0605124593 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Trinidad and Tobago Government has appealed a decision by a high court judge to withhold bargains for the more than 100 Muslim rebels who staged a coup attempt in 1990. Twenty-four people died in that uprising when the rebels took over the Parliament Building, taking hostages and shooting and injuring then Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson. Acting President Emmanuel Carter said he was coerced into signing an amnesty and that it was not binding because it was done under duress, but the high court judge ruled last July that Mr. Carter was not under duress when he signed it.

El Salvador

FMLN Presents Agenda on Agreements

PA0605151893 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] on 5 May proposed a schedule for the government to fulfill the peace agreements, which are at an impasse. Miguel Saenz, FMLN representative to the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace, made the announcement and explained that the time frame involves three main categories, each with a different term for fulfillment ranging from 25 May to 31 December.

The FMLN leadership charged on 3 May that the Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces have totally paralyzed fulfillment of the peace agreements and said the FMLN would present an agenda.

The FMLN presented the agenda on 5 May to Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, head of the UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal], so he could convey it to the UN secretary general.

The first category involves all agreements related to the Armed Forces and national Civil Police, electoral aspects, national dialogue, and the laws contemplated in the peace agreements, according to Miguel Saenz. A 25 May deadline is established for the government to report on the status of the first category.

The FMLN calendar sets 30 June as the date for fulfillment of the second category, which involves agreements pertaining to fulfillment of the recommendations of the ad hoc commission.

A 31 December deadline was set for the fulfillment of the last category of agreements. This last group contemplates having started the third phase of land transfers, obtaining sufficient financing for the reinstatement of the former fighters, and the functioning of the civil police. The third category of agreements also states that the judicial training school must be operating before 31 December.

Peace Agreement Schedule Updated

PA0605233893 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The government, former guerrillas, and UN Observers for El Salvador [Onusal] attained positive results during their discussion of new dates for the implementation of the peace schedule, according to diplomatic sources. Onusal Chief Augusto Ramirez Ocampo met with representatives for the government, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and other political and social forces, according to Radio Venceremos' informers.

As part of the effort to update the schedule for the implementation of the 1992 peace agreements, which are running behind schedule or have been partially implemented, President Alfredo Cristiani, the FMLN and Ramirez Ocampo on 6 May held a joint session. According to our source, their biggest success was the government's decision to discuss the recommendations made by the Truth Commission that was appointed by the United Nations to investigate human rights violations during the war.

Commentary Urges Timely Electoral Reforms

PA0605133493 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Political parties met with electoral tribunal magistrates to work out problems related to the electoral registry and to seek a solution to the problem of the thousands of Salvadorans who do not have an identity card. One of the topics discussed at the meeting was the massive issuance of identity cards to the population, something all political parties could help accomplish.

It is a well-known fact that the current registry has many errors, thus it is essential that it be effectively purged. Only 11 months remain until the elections, which are considered the most important ones in the country's history.

In the next few days a report prepared by (Horacio Boneo), director for United Nations election affairs, will be released. He met with politicians, the government, and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE].

Because of its experience in other countries, the United Nations, which will supervise the event, could make important recommendations that could prove beneficial to guaranteeing clean elections. Opposition parties are questioning the electoral registry the most, and they go as far as to say that the current state of affairs could lead to a technical fraud.

The ruling party agreed with the other parties on the need to improve the electoral registry and admits that the TSE campaign to encourage voters to get their identity cards has not been effective, but the party has also ruled out the possibility of fraud.

It is within this context that one can say the political parties are in time to reach an agreement that would allow the Salvadoran people to have faith in the event and wipe out forever the idea of fraud, which prevails internationally.

Guatemala

Students 'Arrested, Beaten, Wounded' After Protests

PA0705045393 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1858 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 6 May (DPA)—According to reports disclosed by authorities, dozens of students were arrested, beaten, and wounded, and several high schools experienced serious damage as result of student protests that extended until the early morning hours of 6 May.

The Guatemalan students, who announced further protests for today, were protesting the replacement of their free urban transportation boarding passes for student identification cards that they believe will limit free transport and give way to student controls through a computer system.

The disturbances that took place last night and during the early morning hours in Guatemala City with the burning of car tires and the interruption of vehicular traffic in the central part of the city, also affected all movement between the city and the northern part of the country. The Great Belize Bridge, which allows access to and from the city, was blocked for several hours.

The closing of the bridge paralyzed thousands of drivers while the police attempted to arrest those students who were burning tires and setting up barriers to block traffic.

These protests are taking place on the heels of union organized marches that have been announced for 6 May to protest the recent increase in the electrical energy rates, which affects the people's standard of living.

Nicaragua

Government Said To Create 'Special Disarmament Brigades'

PA0705030393 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Very reliable sources have revealed that the government created the Special Disarmament Brigades [BED] for the January to September 1992 period. Unit commanders are enjoying their double salaries, expense accounts, and other benefits so much, however, that this period has practically become indefinite.

That's not all. The brigades—40 percent Sandinist People's Army [EPS] officers and 60 percent Government Ministry forces and demobilized resistance fighters—consume 1.2 billion cordobas every month. When we talk about double salaries we mean the EPS officers and Government Ministry military who earn salaries as BED and EPS members.

It has been reported on different occasions that weapons seized by the BED are returned to rearm Sandinist National Liberation Front members and that several officers have directly cooperated with the fugitives. The reports have never been investigated by the Government Ministry or any other authority.

Moreover, it is known that BED members have submitted requests to receive compensation whenever they are demobilized, which would cost the country more than $6 million.

* Expectations, Results of FSLN Assembly Noted

* Property, Labor Issues

93CA0103A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 11

[Commentary by Oscar Rene Vargas]

[Text] The Sandinist Assembly meeting that is to be held on 27 and 28 March 1993 brings to the fore the need to discuss the key issues involved in the internal life of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), as well as the most important problems facing Nicaraguan society, on which the party must take a stand and propose solutions:

1. The party faces the challenge of changing its method of operation. It must do things differently and really act in concert, because no one person can solve all the problems. In view of all the economic, labor, cultural, social, and political problems, it is not possible for the FSLN—as a party—to function without minimal guidelines (hence the need to devise an overall plan of action). The general lines of that plan must be drafted in a serious and precise manner to avoid improvisation and pragmatism.

2. To ensure the resurgence of the FSLN as a government alternative in the future, there is a need for reassignments and changes in the FSLN political leadership with a view to regaining the lost confidence of the Sandinist rank and file, and in order to modernize our operations. Otherwise, there is a danger that the future alternative will be built without any connection to the Sandinist party.

We must accept that winning back the confidence of the Sandinist rank and file will require resolving the ethical and moral issue involved in the abuses that took place during the transition period. We are at a major crossroads: We are capable of regenerating politics, bringing back the idealism and ethics of the rank and file to create a new hope that will galvanize them into action. If we do not, we are headed for a severe, final defeat in the medium term.

Regain Confidence

3. The main reasons cited for reassigning and replacing the current political leaders of the FSLN are:

a) The responsibility of certain political leaders, at different levels and in different jobs, who are regarded as contributors to the moral and ethical decline of some party members. For this reason, broad sectors of Nicaraguan society are demanding that a new internal political leadership come forward in the FSLN, one that will

fight to clean up public and party life, attack social inequality, propose new forms of struggle, and help establish priorities for the political calendar as we move toward the next elections.

b) Leaders who were known for their implacable attitude in destroying any criticism that might be expressed in the previous decade, are now behaving indulgently toward people linked to the abuses of the transition period. Hence the need to establish once and for all what property is owned by the FSLN.

4. It is necessary for a proposal to come from the FSLN itself to solve the problem of abuse as well as the property ownership problem. It may be necessary to negotiate with other political forces to agree on a new law, but the initiative of the Sandinists as a party could help them win back, at least partially, the confidence of some sectors of Nicaraguan society.

5. Another of the problems that have caused the most harm to the FSLN, to the point that it is now immobilized and totally lacking in initiative, is the fact that it has ignored social problems; it has failed to listen to the real problems expressed by people and by the union rank and file. The political leaders are pretending not to hear the voices in the street. They allowed the imposition of an economic model that was billed as a success, when in fact it has been shown in other countries to be an illusion that will not be able to solve Nicaragua's profound social problems. Because of the lack of an alternative social program, the country's impoverishment has increased.

Proposal Needed

6. Another battle the FSLN must wage is against administrative corruption in the government. Corruption has reached such a magnitude in Nicaragua that it may seriously jeopardize democracy. It could compromise the future of democracy if the problem of corruption is added to the social problem.

The combination of these two elements may cause a social explosion at any moment; when an adult loses his job and knows that he will not find another one soon, and when young people see their hopes for the future dashed because there is no guarantee that they will be able to enter the job market, they may go out into the streets—not to demand social justice, in which they may have ceased to believe, but to take justice into their own hands.

7. Some people think that the problems of the FSLN can be solved with a mere name change. But the FSLN needs a clear proposal that can bring together various social and political forces. Without such a proposal, everything else will come to naught. What might that proposal be? First of all, we must avoid generalities. People want specific proposals to solve the problems of jobs, poverty, corruption, unemployment, and the lowered standard of living. These are new problems that must be dealt with by new proposals.

The Sandinists face the challenge of continuing to raise the banners of social justice and ethics, of making sure peasants and cooperativists are not stripped of their rights to land, of guaranteeing for everyone the right to work, the right to health care, education, and to a decent life in their old age. We need to give people reason to hope again. Without answers to these questions and demands, we cannot survive as a key political and social force in Nicaraguan society.

* Change in Structure

93CA0103B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Mar 93 p 11

[Commentary by Silvio Prado]

[Text] Optimism aside, there are certain expectations for the Sandinist Assembly to be held next weekend. Acting on political hunches, various sources are already commenting on what may happen during these two days of deliberations. This may be because of the sudden adjournment of the meeting during the second half of 1992, or because of the letters written by Fernando Cardenal, but more likely it is out of pure passion.

At any rate, this meeting enjoys the benefit of "maybe," but will it think more about the self-esteem of some of its members than about sudden changes in attitude on the part of the National Directorate. At first glance, at least for me, three reasons come to mind for paying close attention to how this meeting unfolds:

- The ever-present national crisis
- The unfinished business left over from previous meetings
- The organizational situation of the FSLN

It has become commonplace to say that the national crisis is at its highest point, but it should be noted that at the dawn of the October Revolution, in the Smolny [cathedral] smokers asked everyone to stop smoking, but they all kept smoking.

Since the hardliners of the National Opposition Union (UNO) lost their toy, the National Assembly, they have been determined to create even more turmoil in the country until they regain their position of power. And since that time, the leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) have had to guard the government's rear even more carefully and invest their greatest resources in national stability.

This would not be cause for criticism if at the same time they were not supporting an official policy that puts us out of work, excludes us from other job opportunities, denies us credit, refuses to legalize our ownership of houses, lots, and land, imposes religious education on us, saddles us with taxes, and to top it all off, reneges on agreements with the former Contras so that they avenge themselves by killing us Sandinists. There would be nothing wrong with an agreement at the top or a government coalition if it made sure

those of us on this side, and those below us, were not considered by government officials to be a species that must be exterminated at all costs.

The formulation of a national program should not focus primarily on the economically privileged, but rather on those who have been hit hardest by the national crisis: the peasants, the unemployed, women, and the huge wave of poor people flooding into the cities.

Unfinished Business

The upcoming Sandinist Assembly faces the same challenge, but with its own internal aspects, especially with regard to the matters held over from previous meetings: the clarification of property ownership, the emphasis on ethics, and the problems of leadership and of adopting a minimal program to revamp the Sandinist movement.

If our rank and file agree on anything, it is on the need to determine in an open process who owns what and how he got it, and on the revival of Sandinist ethics. We are in a state of paralysis and discouragement on both issues. We cannot keep waiting for better times to solve this problem once and for all; setting things straight has become a vital issue for the future of the organization. Unfortunately, the Commission on Honor and Ethics became just one more tool, and its effectiveness was neutralized by formalities. In keeping with the international trend, a Commission on Truth would not be a bad idea for the FSLN, both for its internal health and for the recuperation of its constituency.

Regarding the other two points, enough business has accumulated to carry out an exhaustive analysis in the assembly. It has already been said many times that the problem of leadership is not one of yearning for the good old days of vertical rule; the problem is the total absence of a point of convergence in sectoral initiatives and the ineffectiveness of a leadership that does not want to see itself as a facilitator and stimulator of the rank and file's potential. So far, the FSLN leadership has accomplished more on the outside (with the government, with other parties) than on the inside, dealing with the internal problems of Sandinism.

Organizational Situation

The adoption of a minimal program is indispensable for establishing a referent that will regroup Sandinism before 1995 is upon us. We cannot continue flailing about in the National Assembly, in our relations with the government, and in our efforts to rebuild our ties to civil society. This minimal program should help bring together the scattered forces of Sandinism.

Along these lines, a third point has to do with the FSLN's organizational situation. Recently a comrade was commenting to me that it seemed as if there was a political desire to keep Sandinism divided. The well-known collapse of the party structures has caused Sandinists to split up into innumerable groups of all sizes. The habit of being organized has caused us to form alliances with the people with whom we most closely identify. Now it is common to hear people say, "I have a group of pals that I get together with to talk about the Front." In practice, this "natural" association has replaced the grassroots committees, and the gossipy parties and meetings have replaced party assemblies.

If anyone thinks this is the new form that Sandinism should take on, he is wrong; this style is worse than factionalism itself, because not only does this dispersion divide, it also isolates, immobilizes, and weakens to the point of extinction. At least when there are formal factions the different groups work with their members, draft proposals based on their particular points of view, and join forces with the other currents to contribute to the organization's overall strength.

The Sandinist Assembly should begin the difficult task of finding a new organizational model for Sandinism, based on the recognition of the new situation of its members. It is necessary to make a clean break from the previous system, but also to overcome the current state of atomization, without disregard for the experience that has been gained from this method.

The members of the Sandinist Assembly still owe a debt to the rank and file. They face what may be the last opportunity for a structure that still enjoys the benefit of the doubt. A good result would be to end the vicious circle of those dreary, stodgy, tedious meetings of the past.

* Internal Problems Aired

93CA0103C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Apr 93 p 15

[Commentary by Sandinist Assembly member Orlando Nunez Soto]

[Text] If I had to sum up the basic issues that were debated during the regular session of the Sandinist Assembly, first of all I would mention the internal problems of Sandinism, and secondly, national problems and the strategy of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Reconciliation of Sandinists

The electoral defeat dealt a heavy blow to Sandinist morale, and it meant an objective loss of the power positions that had made it possible to consolidate the revolution. One of the most significant manifestations of that syndrome was the demoralization and demobilization of the FSLN membership, which stimulated the reactionary forces and promoted anti-Sandinism.

Two developments guaranteed that this internal demobilization would take place within the Sandinist movement in the last few years: the finger-pointing by those in power, and the accusations stemming from the imperfections of the 10-year period or the abuses of the *pinata* [Sandinist government's appropriation of land and property after election defeat] of the last three years.

The assembly no longer dealt with the causes of the defeat or the imperfections; it concentrated on criticism and self-criticism regarding the problems of property ownership in the FSLN and in the Sandinist movement as a whole. The ethics problem was analyzed from the political standpoint, that is, in terms of those who benefit or do not benefit the FSLN in its struggle against its sworn enemies.

This session was aimed at reconciling the contradictions within the Sandinist Assembly itself. And without contending that all matters are completely resolved, the report of the FSLN Ethics and Treasury Committee and the formation of a committee within the assembly to deal with the FSLN's budgetary and property matters was a good start toward the organic restructuring of the party.

In other words, and here we are just citing a few examples, we realized that for us Sandinists national reconciliation must include reconciliation among ourselves. Of course, this exercise can only be effective to the extent that it is enriched by the Sandinist activists themselves, with whom the party leadership must settle accounts immediately.

Of course there were mistakes and blemishes over the years, during the revolution and after the electoral defeat, and naturally there were and are culprits. The irreparable damage that was done by their behavior will have to be overcome by permanently replacing party leaders at all levels, but not by engaging in a "witch hunt" or conducting a purge the way the Stalinists of the past did, and the way the right wing would like us to proceed.

National Crisis and Political Strategy

The discussion of national problems focused on the plight of the country's economy and its disastrous impact on Nicaraguan families, and on the level of polarization and desperation that exists among the populace, with the resulting social breakdown, armed confrontations, and migratory waves. Not to mention the sullying of the soil, water, vegetation, and overall environment of our fatherland.

Of course there are objective limitations as to what we can do about those problems, but there are also opportunities we must seize. In this regard, the Sandinist Assembly decided to take the initiative to arrive at a political armistice with all our adversaries and to get to work mobilizing Sandinist activists and all organized popular forces in a crusade for peace and economic construction in Nicaragua.

Now, if as patriots we are interested in rescuing the nation from chaos and poverty, as revolutionaries we also have our own priorities. One of those priorities is the struggle to defend and consolidate the land ownership of 300,000 peasant, cooperativist, and trade union families (2 million individuals). This land was won by the workers of the countryside and the city both before and after the revolution.

In other words, our priorities include the struggle for the new economic subjects of Nicaraguan society with proof and guarantee of the democratization of property ownership and with fairness in the social life of this country. There must be a struggle for the fair distribution of credit and capital resources for these productive sectors. This means opposing the government's current economic policy until we manage to turn it around, including both its strictly economic aspects and its social aspects.

Without a new social policy, this country will continue going downhill and depriving not only the majorities of a means of making a living, as is the case today, but also the minorities who are now enjoying the benefits of the current neoliberal model.

Our opposition to the economic policy and our struggle to democratize property ownership and wealth will have little effect if we do not mobilize all organized sectors that are affected, as evidenced by the battles and victories of the National Workers Front (FNT). From now on, given the current level of the economic recession and the environmental deterioration, this mobilization will have to involve a productive and ecological crusade in which all Sandinists must join wholeheartedly.

This does not mean that we must take a passive and sanctimonious attitude toward the recalcitrant anti-Sandinism of the church hierarchy, the mass media of the liberal-conservative oligarchy, and the leaders of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

The fact that the Sandinist Assembly gives priority to this important issue can be seen in the mandate that was given to a committee of the assembly to propose a position statement on the economy and a political battle plan, which is to be presented at a special session of the Sandinist Assembly this month.

We did not reach agreement on everything, but we did on the fundamental issues. The internal contradictions and conflicts of the Sandinist movement have not gone away, but we are beginning to deal with them in a fraternal and aggressive way. Just as in every Holy Week there have been Calvaries, Judases, Caifases and Jesuses, virgins and saints, we hope that there will be a resurrection of Sandinism and that there will always be a revolution for the people.

The Sandinist Assembly is one more step in this process and this project. The active membership, the popular Sandinist movement, and the people in general also have a say in the matter and a share of the responsibility.

* Investment in Cotton Benefits Economy

93CA0106A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish
5 Apr 93 p 10

[Commentary by Jose Arguello Cardenal]

[Text] I read with interest that there is finally a government agency that is creating permanent and temporary

jobs for 14,600 people. At what cost? If this is done in each ministry we would have the number we already have, plus 200,000 employees in different jobs.

I maintain once again that we need to create jobs in Nicaragua, and we must again have efficient production. Without production, this country cannot survive. We cannot keep on depending on handouts; the government should be ashamed to go about begging and seeking aid without demonstrating any progress or production.

If US $1 billion in aid has already come here (1 plus 11 zeros), it is an exorbitant amount; where are the results? Where are the signs of progress? Where has this money been invested? In the 5,000 vehicles the government says it owns? What a shame and what a waste!

As I have written in other articles, this country is suitable for agriculture. We have an agricultural infrastructure that we have paid for, for crops like cotton, corn, sorghum, peanuts, and other products.

Many farmers have planted these products. Why not put the country to work on what we know and have experience with? I will use cotton as an example.

If the government promoted the planting of 100,000 manzanas of land in cotton, 500,000 jobs, not 14,600 jobs, could be created: five jobs for each manzana planted.

This crop would reactivate ports, transportation, commerce, cotton gins, cottonseed oil plants, spinning mills. It would give work to campesinos, tractor operators, drivers, agronomists, pilots, metal workers, tractor salespeople. Countless economic activities would be stimulated.

To do so, the following would be necessary: 1. The government would have to guarantee the cotton grower a minimum purchase price of US $75 per quintal. 2. Insecticide and fertilizer imports would have to be allowed from reputable firms that would guarantee their purity; and they would have to be imported without taxes and guaranteed. 3. The campesino would have to be guaranteed a minimum wage of 15 cordobas a day. 4. Farmers would have to be required to prepare their lands properly and to enrich all the lands they intended to sow. 5. New systems would have to be used to control diseases, using biological controls and systemic insecticides that are less harmful to the environment. 6. The cotton produced should be negotiated in an orderly and well-regulated manner; part of it should be processed into thread to put back to work the spinning mills that are now shut down. 7. Imports of parts to repair agricultural machinery and spraying and ginning services should not be taxed. 8. At the present time the cotton futures price is US $65. The government could guarantee sales in the New York market at those prices even though it would lose US $100 per quintal. 9. 100,000 manzanas of cotton in a normal harvest could yield 1 million "gold" quintals (220,000 bales). 10. If the government sold the entire crop at US $65 and guaranteed US $75, it would lose US $10 million, but it would have given work to 500,000 people; it would be investing US $20 or 120 cordobas per person. Is that worthwhile? Will what it is investing in jobs for 14,600 people cost less than that per person?

If the government lost US $20 million by selling at US $55 per quintal and gave work to 500,000 people, it would lose US $40 (240 cordobas) per person. How much does that cost now? Do you not think this would provide social stability (even if temporary), until other outlets were found and other job sources created?

Everything I have written is based on good bank services, with payments to be made when the farmer needed the funds, not when the Central Bank decided to authorize payment.

Many poor harvests have been caused by the Bank giving farmers money only after they have wasted a week going in every day to try to get the money they need to spray and buy supplies. In such cases it does not take long for disease to spread.

Corn, sorghum, peanuts, etc., like cotton, could also be reactivated.

This country will not arise from its prostration until our thinking becomes more flexible and we all work to become productive.

Nicaragua has great resources. It has people who know how to work and who are waiting for a guide to begin production. Let us move forward, people of Nicaragua, our true dialogue must be to produce and produce, to create jobs, and raise our people's standard of living.

Donor Countries Said To Recognize Progress in Government's Reform Program

PA0605221693 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Representatives from 17 countries and 11 international organizations concluded on 5 May the sessions of the Fourth Consultative Group for Nicaragua, which convened near the World Bank in Paris, France. The donors recognized the progress achieved during the second year of the government's reform program and voiced their continued support of Nicaragua's efforts in attaining sustainable development and an effective solution to poverty.

The meeting was chaired by Edilberto Segura, director of the World Bank's operations for Mexico, Central America, and Panama.

The Nicaraguan delegation was led by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, who was accompanied by Finance Minister Emilio Pereira; Central Bank President Jose Evenor Taboada Arana; Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger Maltez; Social Action Minister William Baez Sacasa; and Economy and Development Minister Pablo Pereira.

The Nicaraguan delegation described the progress attained by the implementation of the government's

economic reform and national reconciliation program as of 1960 [as heard] and it presented a medium-term development program for 1993 to 1995. The delegation stated that important progress has been made in liberalizing trade, eliminating controls over interest rates, privatizing state property enterprises, and reducing military expenses.

Inflation was kept under control and the economy registered a positive growth rate in 1992 for the first time since 1983, despite adverse events abroad. According to the medium-term government plan, future actions will seek to implement a program to solve the uncertain guarantees on property rights, strengthen the financial [word indistinct], complete the privatization program and tax reform, privatize public services, as well as restore health, education, and social security services.

The delegation stated that the difficult task of transforming the economy from a centralized system to one geared toward a market capable of supporting the required growth continues and requires strong financial and technical support. The delegation also requested that the potential flow of assistance on the same period be pointed out in a medium-term program by the government.

The IMF, the International Development Association, and the IDB, which have been supporting the reform efforts of the government, stated that the economy was starting to respond to the measures adopted so far and that the government plan is headed in the right direction.

The IMF (?analyzed) the economic behavior of Nicaragua in 1992 and stated that the external financing situation will continue to be very fragile in the medium term. It also voiced the need for continued external support for maintaining the reform program and stated that preparing an adequate Reinforced Debt Servicing and Economic Adjustments Program requires eliminating the uncertainties concerning the external financing available for 1993 and a commitment by the government to solve several structural problems, which are essential for restoring the confidence of private sector and the outlooks for investment and growth.

The preliminary projections of the balance of payment for 1993, based on an adjustment of 5 percentage points for the Gross Domestic Product and the current external account, show a financing gap of some $140 million dollars.

* Commentary Discusses Changes in U.S. Policy

93CA0106B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Apr 93 p 4

[Commentary by Adolfo Miranda Saenz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

We Are Not a Priority for Clinton

The Clinton administration does not consider Latin American policy a priority. It has never been a priority for the Democrats. Especially now when there is no danger that its former rival power, the USSR, might establish enclaves that could threaten its national security, for the USSR has simply disintegrated.

So for Clinton, the internal affairs of these countries really are internal affairs in which he has no interest in intervening economically, politically, and certainly not militarily. This position is diametrically opposed to that of the Republicans.

If the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] had won the elections in El Salvador and the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] had won the elections in Nicaragua, Clinton would not have lifted a finger to do anything about it, nor would it have caused him any concern.

Cuba is a different matter. There an entire past history stands in the way, along with an anti-Cuban bias in U.S. society. Clinton will not easily normalize relations with Cuba. He is going to emphasize reports of human rights violations on the island (from his point of view). But this will not be the same obsession for his administration as it was for Reagan and Bush. And if in his opinion the human rights situation (again I say, seen from his point of view) improves, he will ease U.S policy toward Cuba.

It is quite revealing that the undersecretary [of state] told Helms that General Humberto Ortega would stay in his post for "only" three more years. In other words, he may be in that job until just before the end of the current term of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. This shows that General Ortega is not a problem for Clinton. Even less of a problem are Antonio Lacayo's tenure in office and the other issues of concern to UNO [National Opposition Union], which are considered "Nicaragua's internal problems." The "release of funds" and future aid have no strings attached. Clinton only wants the government to continue the same course it is presently pursuing, or to resolve the property issue "in the government's style" and not "in UNO's style." And for human rights issues to continue to be handled "in the government's style." Other matters like the Ortega, Lacayo, Lenin Cerna, National Assembly, Judiciary, Comptroller issues, etc., are "Nicaragua's internal affairs" that do not concern Mr. Clinton.

Bill Clinton's top priority is the U.S. economy. This includes cuts in foreign aid, and therefore a considerable decline in funds for Nicaragua. Not just for Nicaragua, but for all countries in general. This will certainly affect us, but ultimately it is a positive change. The policy of "oblivion" means nonintervention in our internal affairs.

In all this the losers are rightist forces in the United States and Nicaragua, whose alliance enabled them to influence Nicaraguan policy. Reagan's war and Bush's economic intervention are things of the past. Jesse Helms has lost his power to intervene in Nicaragua's affairs.

Helms' Letter Reveals Weakness and Frustration

It is interesting to consider Helms' letter to Clinton. It begins with irony and goes on to insults. "I thought it was an April Fool's joke...Mr. President, you have taken an overdose of stupidity pills...." These phrases reveal the frustration of a man who knows he has lost his game and his power.

Clinton paid no attention to Helms. For the "release of funds," there were no prior consultations, no White House lobbying of the formerly influential senator, no courteous gesture to give him explanations or to reach an agreement between the Clinton administration and Helms. The Clinton administration just notified him of a decision that was already made. And Helms was not even called by the secretary of state, but by the undersecretary.

UNO Has Been Orphaned

This brings us to the conclusion that we are going to have to solve our problems in Managua, not Washington. Agreements and negotiations will have to be worked out ourselves, without the interference of "godfathers" like Reagan, Bush, or Helms himself, who were the "godfathers" or "sugardaddies" of UNO, which has now been orphaned.

Moreover, as I said earlier, we cannot expect to get much money from the United States. This is another factor inducing us to seek internal agreements to move Nicaragua forward by our own efforts.

John Maisto's appointment as ambassador stems from his service as a career diplomat who knows Nicaragua, and not because the previous administration once used him as a messenger. Maisto is going to adhere precisely to the political line of the administration that appointed him, that is, to Clinton.

There Is No "Truth Commission"

There is no "truth commission" in Nicaragua as in El Salvador. The minister of the presidency's statement that the government is open to having friends come to see how the government is doing things, to find out at first hand so that "no lies will be told," is not the same as forming a "truth commission" like the one in El Salvador.

People who think a commission is going to come here to investigate "crimes" or Tony Ibarra's accusations are mistaken. Such a thing was never intended. For Clinton these are part of "Nicaragua's internal affairs." Ibarra's statement in the United States drew no interest on the part of the Clinton administration.

We live in an era when we can be the masters of our own destiny without U.S. intervention. Whether we can move Nicaragua forward will depend on our own capacity to work out agreements among the Nicaraguan people.

Argentina

Falklands Authorities Reject Idea of Commercial Flights Over Territory

PY0605183793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1457 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 May (EFE)—Suki Cameron, the representative of the Malvinas islanders in Great Britain, announced today that the Malvinas Islands authorities have rejected the idea of commercial flights that DAP [DAP Airlines, Inc.], a Chilean firm, wants to schedule to the islands with stopovers in Argentine territory. Cameron's statements were published today by the Buenos Aires newspaper PAGINA 12.

"No plane that has landed in Argentina will be authorized to land in the Falklands [as received]," Cameron said.

Buenos Aires authorized the Chilean airline to fly from the Chilean city of Punta Arenas to Port Stanley, the Malvinas Islands' capital, with stopovers in Rio Gallegos and Rio Grande, in Argentina's southernmost territory.

The flights by the Chilean airline were authorized last Monday through a decree signed by President Carlos Menem, who wants to promote ties with the "Kelpers."

Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said: "In the long term, assets owned by the British in Argentina will force negotiations" over the Malvinas, the sovereignty of which Buenos Aires has claimed for the past 160 years.

Cameron labeled "stupid" the strategy by the Argentines, who in 1990 reestablished diplomatic relations with the British, which were discontinued during the war that the two countries fought in 1982 over possession of the islands.

"I think it is fine to intensify relations between Great Britain and Argentina, because the stronger they are, the easier it will be for Argentines to forget the Malvinas," Cameron said.

Earlier this year Cameron refused to meet with Di Tella, when the Argentine foreign minister travelled to London to negotiate a joint agreement for prospecting for oil in the waters around the islands.

The permits Argentina granted to fishing boats of third countries to operate near the Malvinas have reduced the islanders' incomes.

The reaction by the islanders forced the British to authorize three enterprises to search for oil deposits around the islands, an operation in which Argentina intends to participate.

Di Tella warned oil companies that they will be brought to international courts if they extract oil from the Malvinas without Argentine authorization.

The Malvinas islands, an archipelago of 12,000 square km, 400 miles east of Argentina, were occupied by British military forces in 1833.

Brazil

Franco Orders Punishment Against Leaders of Separatist Groups

PY0605155493 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpt] President Itamar Franco has instructed Justice Minister Mauricio Correa to order the Federal Police to punish the leaders of the separatist groups that have surfaced in southern Brazil.

Minister Correa has ordered the Federal Police to collect all propaganda related to the movement and has informed Communications Minister Hugo Napoleao of President Franco's determination to identify the radio stations involved in this movement.

Correa says that Itamar has ordered all radio stations that disseminate material which violates the Constitution to be taken off the air and fined.

Correa met with deputies of Parana, Santa Catarina, and Rio Grande do Sul States in response an invitation extended by the later.

The deputies told Minister Correa that they disapprove of the separatist groups that are surfacing in southern Brazil.

Correa commented that the ideal moment to discuss this problem would be when the Constitution is reviewed. [passage omitted]

Federal Police Arrest 4 Representatives of Southern Separatists

PY0605220693 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] This morning in Curitiba the Federal Police arrested four representatives of the southern separatist movements.

The Federal Police seized bumper stickers, caps, posters, and T-shirts from the supporters of two movements charged with maintaining separatist ideas: Parana State Friends [Amigos do Parana] and Parana State Friends Association [Sociedad Amigos do Parana].

At the office of the chief of police, the policemen displayed a banner bearing the movement's slogan, which read: "The south is my country."

So far four people have been questioned. They say they support economic and financial independence for the southern states.

(Franklin Augusto Demerqui) is one of the leaders of the separatist movement in Parana.

The Federal Police will conduct investigations, and the leaders of the movement in Parana will be charged with violating national security and sociopolitical order. According to the law, separatism violates Article 1 of the Constitution, which states that the Federative Republic of Brazil is a product of the indissoluble unity of the states.

Finance Minister Resende Cited on Government Economic Program

PY0605234093 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Yesterday during a meeting at the Chamber of Deputies and in the Senate, Finance Minister Eliseu Resende reasserted that the government's economic program will be successful only if it has the support of Brazilian society. The minister also mentioned the importance of a fiscal adjustment based on the government's determination to spend only what it collects.

Eliseu Resende also referred to the renegotiation of the states' debts, and requested legislator's support in approving the draft bill regulating this renegotiation. He also said that revenue during the first months of the year had been much higher than expected, and commented on government negotiations to reschedule the domestic debt profile.

Resende said that the government is renegotiating the domestic debt profile with the financial system. Regarding prices, he said that in addition to the meeting he held with supermarket representatives yesterday, he is going to meet in Sao Paulo tomorrow with representatives from the sectors in charge of setting prices.

The legislators also asked the minister for an explanation about rumors involving him in a loan to Peru approved by the Export Financing Comittee, to finance an infrastructure project to be built by the Norberto Odebrecht construction company. Resende explained that he will submit to President Itamar Franco, the Senate, and the Chamber of Deputies the documents issued by the Committee. He said he did not know why such a fuss was being made about this loan to Peru, as others had also been authorized, among them one for Iran for a much larger amount of money. He added that he had never been involved in the negotiations for this loan, which lasted 2 years.

After listening to the complaints of several deputies regarding the privatization program, Minister Resende once again upheld the need to review the state monopoly on oil production and telecommunications when the Constitution is reviewed.

In Resende's opinion, the Brazilian Government's privatization program is still beginning and has yielded few results. He noted, however, the need to use the resources obtained from the privatization process to settle the domestic debt.

Yesterday, during a meeting in Itamaraty with Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Central Bank Chairman Paulo Ximenes, Resende said that he thought an agreement with the IMF would be signed by August.

In his opinion the IMF has ceased to be a problem, because Brazil has enough reserves for a direct renegotiation with the creditor banks. He noted, however, that the agreement with the IMF is important to give the country's economic policy credibility.

Planning Minister Crusius To Resign 7 May

PY0605233793 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Planning Minister Yeda Crusius will hand President Itamar Franco her resignation at 1100 on 7 May. Minister Crusius told correspondent Critsina Indio do Brasil that her governmental mission has been fulfilled:

[Begin recording] [Crusius] I have spoken to the president and will hand him my resignation on 7 May. After planning and handing in documents on the budget law, I believe that a very important phase—in which the Brazilian economy and Brazilian society have been modified—has been completed. This document marks a new phase of governmental action before Congress. The 1994 budget will be based on this bill. We have also prepared the outline for implementation of the 1993 budget. We have had the privilege of working together with all the other ministries to draft the plan to combat misery and hunger. This plan has been coordinated with Brazilian society, and it has also been our privilege to coordinate it. I believe that this stage has reached its conclusion, and I feel very honored to have been able to participate in the government until now.

[Indio do Brasil] How did the president react to your resignation?
[Crusius] As he has always reacted so far, in a respectful, understanding, and loving manner.

[Indio do Brasil] What do you plan to do now?
[Crusius] Rest. [end recording]

Minister Crusius has already scheduled her return to Porto Alegre for 1600 on 7 May, but before leaving she plans to hand over her position to her successor.

* Controversial Constitutional Reform Issues Seen

* Polemical Points

93SM0225A Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Apr 93 p 1-14

[Article by Andrew Greenlees and Lucio Vaz: "Congress Will Review 'Untouchable' Topics"]

[Text] The constitutional revision scheduled for October will be carried out in a post-Berlin Wall climate. Social and economic topics considered untouchable in 1988—when the current Constitution was promulgated—are going to be ardently challenged. But this does not mean that they will be altered.

The chapters on economic order (including the role of the state) and labor rights will be the main targets.

"A lot of things got into the Constitution in 1988 as a result of emotionalism, and now they need to be wiped out," says the president of the FIESP (Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries), Carlos Eduardo Moreira Ferreira. Such things as retirement based on length of service, job tenure for government employees, the monopoly on the transportation and distribution of petroleum and petroleum products, and the distinction between Brazilian firms with domestic capital and foreign firms should be eliminated or at least revised, says the president of the FIESP.

Private enterprise will strongly support changes which, in its opinion, would modernize the economy. "There are many rules that inhibit hiring and make business activity impossible," says Helio Ramos Domingues, legal director at Febraban (Brazilian Federation of Bank Associations). In the specific case of the financial system, Domingues cites the 12-percent limit on annual interest rates, a constitutional provision that has not been enforced because no regulations were ever issued.

Workday

The things that hinder modernization in the eyes of some represent social progress in the opinion of others. "Our concern is over the neoliberalism that continues to exist," comments the president of the CUT [Sole Workers Center], Jair Meneguelli. His federation will work to retain social guarantees and, if possible, expand them. One example would be the effort to reduce the maximum workweek from 44 to 40 hours.

But disagreements will not exist only between businessmen and workers. Other sectors are already stirring. "We must protect job tenure, parental leave, profit-sharing for employees, and advance notice in proportion to length of service," says the president of the OAB (Brazilian Attorneys Association), Jose Roberto Batochio. "Doing away with the definition of what constitutes a Brazilian firm will lead to the scrapping of domestic industry," he adds. Privatization, says Batochio, should not be total.

Flexibility

There are agreements and disagreements within the union movement. Union plurality (meaning no restriction on the number of unions by category in each region) is a question on which the CUT and its rival, Union Force, are united. But there is friction: "There should be no distinction between domestic, government, or foreign capital," claims Luiz Antonio de Medeiros, president of Union Force. "The world we live in is one of flexibility, and we need to adapt," he says.

Practically all sectors of civil society draw attention to the need to redefine the powers of the Union, the states, and the municipalities. This would be the initial step toward a permanent tax reform. The current distribution of powers overburdens the Union's coffers.

Taxes

Moreira Ferreira of the FIESP believes that tax reform should not wait until October. He says changes are needed immediately. At the University of Sao Paulo, the Capital-Labor group (consisting of professors and organizations) has drawn up a proposal for dividing up taxes: the Union would be responsible for collecting taxes on income, foreign trade, and financial transactions, the states would be responsible for consumption, inheritance, and gift taxes, and the municipalities would collect taxes on real estate and vehicles.

There is a consensus that rates should be lowered and the number of taxpayers increased.

Meneguelli also says: "Agrarian reform has zero priority." Medeiros says: "We oppose the tax on unions and favor a strengthening of negotiation rather than state intervention in labor relations." As far as the president of the FIESP is concerned, there should be provision for worker participation in a company's results—not its profits—since the employer's situation can only be assessed after all deductions have been taken into account.

What all the organizations in civil society are promising is that they will be present in Congress during the revision. To an even greater extent than in 1987 and 1988.

Rules Undefined

Brasilia—Congress has not yet established its procedural rules for constitutional revision. Even the date on which the work will begin has not been decided. That is the first thing to be agreed on, says Deputy Jose Genoino (PT [Workers Party], Sao Paulo).

The officers of Congress are working on the establishment of a commission of deputies and senators representing all the parties to prepare the bill on procedure. According to Deputy Gastone Righi (PTB [Brazilian Labor Party], Sao Paulo), that commission will set the date and adopt specific rules to regulate the process.

The commission will not be appointed until after the plebiscite. Its purpose will be to decide which committees will be set up and to determine how proposals will be debated. The Constitution stipulates that voting shall be unicameral—that is, the deputies and senators will vote as a single body.

In 1987-1988, the proposals were debated and voted on by subcommittees appointed for each topic. Those approved were then voted on again by the Systematization Committee and Congress as a whole.

Leftist Nationalizing Tendency Wanes

Brasilia—A redefinition of the role of the state, liberalization of the economy, and political reforms will be the main topics in the constitutional revision. Since the

current Constitution was promulgated—in October 1988—much has changed. The Left and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], for example, have grown less favorable to nationalization and more open to the entry of foreign investment into Brazil.

Such controversial questions as nationalization of the subsoil, reserved markets, and the regulation of interest rates will again be the focus of debate, but without as much passion as was the case five years ago.

"We need to come up with a model for Brazil's insertion into the world—a model that will facilitate that insertion without compromising the country's autonomy." That remark could have come from one of the leaders of the former "Big Central Organization," but instead it was made by Deputy Jose Genoino (PT, Sao Paulo).

Genoino goes further and attacks the gigantism of the Brazilian state: "We need to design the state more as a regulatory and promotional agent and less as the owner of physical assets." That proposal is also expressed in the PMDB's new platform.

The PMDB's leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Genebaldo Correia (Bahia), says that there may be changes in telecommunications and telephone services, which are currently a monopoly of the Union. The PMDB also wants to "correct a number of excesses in the area of foreign capital," one example being nationalization of the subsoil.

Reserved markets and the granting of privileges to Brazilian firms with domestic capital are being threatened. The leader of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] in the Chamber of Deputies, Jose Serra (Sao Paulo), says his party will support "a greater openness to the participation of foreign capital."

The nationalizing posture of the PDT [Democratic Labor Party] is not preventing members of that party from also supporting a redefinition of the role of the state. "It is necessary to define the state as an economic agent. It is necessary to know how big it is and what its typical activities are," says Deputy Miro Teixeira (PDT, Rio de Janeiro).

Tax reform will be a crucial issue. Three simultaneous battles are foreseen in this area. The first will be between the Union and the states and municipalities. The second will be between the poor regions (North and Northeast) and the rich ones (South and Southeast). The third will be between the state and the citizens.

Serra feels that there is satisfactory equilibrium among the regions, but he identifies problems in the area of social security taxes: "We have the PIS [Social Integration Program], Pasep [Government Employees Welfare Fund], Finsocial [Social Investment Fund], the payroll tax, and the tax on education salaries. That is too many taxes. The problem is the jumble of taxes. We need to eliminate taxes and combine some of them with others."

Miro Teixeira supports changes in the link between the Union and the municipalities: "There may come to be a formula for allowing taxes collected in a municipality to remain in that municipality."

Controversial Points in Constitutional Revision

Individual and Collective Rights:

- Abortion—Decriminalization will be proposed.
- Death penalty—An amendment will recommend ending the ban.

Social Rights:

- Labor rights—There will be proposals to eliminate the six-hour day for work in uninterrupted shifts and abolish parental leave.
- Union freedom—There will be amendments proposing a plurality of unions.
- Union dues—May be made voluntary.
- Right to strike—There will be attempts to restrict this right.
- Political parties—There will be proposals to establish rules governing party loyalty.

Organization of the State:

- Concessions—There will be amendments allowing private firms to operate telephone, telegraph, and telecommunications services.

Structure of the Branches of Government:

- Mixed majority vote by district—Its introduction will be proposed.
- Chamber of Deputies—True representation of the states will be debated.
- Senate—Deputies are proposing that the Senate's powers be restricted to matters of interest to the Union.
- Ministers—Some presidentialists want ministers to be appointed by the Senate, with the Chamber of Deputies having the right to remove them.
- National Accounting Office [TCU]—Some congressmen are proposing that the TCU simply be abolished; another group feels that the TCU's decisions should have the force of law.
- President's powers—There will be attempts to restrict them. He would not be allowed to appoint members of the TCU and the STF [Federal Supreme Court], the attorney general of the republic, or the board of directors of the Central Bank.
- Judiciary—Systems for external oversight of the judiciary by society will be proposed.
- Armed Forces—They may lose their duty to guarantee law and order.

Taxes and Budget:

- Tax simplification—There will be proposals to reduce the number of taxes.
- Federative pact—An attempt will be made to establish a common policy in public administration.

- Transfer of duties—The Constitution transferred funds to the states and municipalities. An attempt will be made to transfer duties as well.

Economic Matters:

- Domestic enterprise—Reserved markets and the benefits granted domestic firms will be reviewed.
- Nationalization of subsoil—A proposal will be made to eliminate the provision limiting activities by foreign mining companies.
- Petroleum—The liberal group wants to end the monopoly.
- Agrarian reform—There will be a fight over the rules for summary proceedings in connection with expropriations.
- Interest rates—There will be an amendment abolishing the ceiling of 12 percent per year.

Social Order:

- Retirement—An attempt will be made to eliminate retirement based on length of service.
- Private welfare plans—The government would guarantee pensions of up to four or five minimum wages. To receive more, the insured would have to increase his contribution.
- Public education—One group supports monthly fees based on the student's family income.
- Journalism diplomas—Another attempt will be made to eliminate the provision restricting the practice of journalism to holders of diplomas in social communication.
- Indian lands—There will be amendments to establish boundary lines.

Public Administration:

- Job tenure—There will be a proposal to restrict permanent tenure to government employees in only a few categories.

Branches of Government May Undergo "Revolution"

Brasilia—Proposals by the parties for political reform suggest that there will almost be a revolution in the chapter on the structure of the branches of government. There are proposals to reduce the powers of the president of the republic, establish a system of outside supervision of the judiciary, and make thoroughgoing changes in the legislative branch.

Deputy Ibsen Pinheiro (PMDB, Rio Grande do Sul) says that the Brazilian representative system—comprising all three branches—"has fallen behind, suffered necrosis in some areas, and been seriously distorted in others. We must redefine the model of representation in Congress." He says that the biggest distortion of the representative system has to do not with the lack of proportionality in the state blocs, but in the weak representation of many social groups.

"The corporatist interests of workers, the bureaucratic interests of businessmen, and the sectoral interests of the regions are strongly organized in Congress, while one-third of the population has no form of representation," says Ibsen.

Deputy Delfim Netto (PPR [Progressive Renewal Party], Sao Paulo) is skeptical of a thoroughgoing political reform: "For those reforms to be accepted, we would have to have chosen the parliamentary system. In the presidential system it is difficult because everyone will be trying to strengthen his own party so as to gain control of the administration through an imperial president."

The PMDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies, Genebaldo Correia (Bahia), says the revision should "strip the president of the imperial powers he possesses," but he does not believe in such innovations as making it possible for the Chamber of Deputies to remove ministers through a vote of no confidence. "In the presidential system, we would be creating a monster: there would be permanent conflict between the executive and legislative branches."

In Genebaldo's opinion, another important issue is reorganization of the parties: "We must make it clear whether the mandate belongs to the congressman or the party. I say that a congressman should not be allowed to switch parties until he has served two years of his term. If he does switch, he loses his seat."

Deputy Victor Faccioni (PPR, Rio Grande do Sul) wants to change the way the National Accounting Office, an agency of the legislative branch, operates: "Accounting offices are simply agencies for keeping records; they do very little auditing."

* Proportionality of Blocs

93SM0225B Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 27 Mar 93 p 2

[Article by Claudia Moreira: "Constitutional Revision May Change Number of Deputies"]

[Text] The proportionality of blocs in the National Congress is a controversial matter and one that will certainly come up for debate during the constitutional revision this October. The deputies are already mobilizing with suggestions, proposals, and even bills, many of which are working their way through the Chamber of Deputies. The feeling of the majority is that the current number of representatives (503) should stay the same despite the existence of movements to reduce the size of the blocs in order to do away with so-called fictitious representation once and for all.

According to the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Deputy Inocencio Oliveira, Brazil has regional inequalities because it is a country with a plurality of economic and social groups. Because of that, in Inocencio's opinion, a change in the number of deputies should take into account not only the voters but also the country's inequalities. In his opinion, the number of congressmen

should remain at 503, with the only changes being in the size of the various state blocs.

Proposals to establish a minimum and maximum number of deputies per state are diverse. Some claim that reducing the existing number of representatives (503) is the best deal. Currently, the minimum number per state is eight, while the maximum is 70. But according to Deputy Inocencio Oliveira, those numbers cause distortions because some federal units have too many congressmen and others have too few. Oliveira's idea is to stipulate a minimum of four and a maximum of 80 representatives.

Deputy Nelson Jobim's suggestion calls for giving the states a minimum of three representatives and reducing the total number of deputies to 498. Deputy Victor Faccioni wants to reduce the minimum even further—to only one—and to reduce the number of congressmen in the Chamber of Deputies by 100. Under all the proposals, the bloc representing the North Region would lose seats, mainly in the recently created states. The Northeast would not lose a great many deputies. Bahia, Ceara, and Pernambuco would even gain more seats in the Chamber of Deputies.

Supporting argument: Deputy Victor Faccioni believes that Brazil has too many deputies, making it difficult for the legislative branch to function. "The excessive number makes it difficult for people to know each other and makes it hard to identify congressmen and form a quorum." According to him, the greater the number of deputies, the less each one represents—in other words, representation is in inverse proportion to the number of congressmen.

Besides hampering the work of the Chamber of Deputies, having a large number of deputies also creates problems with physical space and the allotment of time, as happens in the case of speeches before the full house and the time allotted to speakers. "Representation today is fictitious or at least distorted," he emphasizes. Faccioni's argument does not ignore cost. "If we reduced the number of representatives by 100, our expenditures would be much lower," he claims.

Plebiscite: Since there is no consensus on a single proposal for reducing or increasing the number of deputies or simply keeping it at 503, Faccioni is proposing a plebiscite to let the people decide what is best for the Chamber of Deputies. The relevant legislative decree is already working its way through the Chamber of Deputies. It gives the voters a choice between 503 or 403 deputies and also asks them to decide on a minimum number of deputies per state.

Since it is the Constitution which stipulates the number of deputies per state and changing that number requires approval by three-fifths of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies in two rounds of balloting each, Faccioni decided to use the legislative decree to speed up the process. "I do not believe that the two houses will approve a reduction in the total number of deputies because of the interests at stake and corporative solidarity itself." According to him, three-fifths is too high a percentage to defeat through a constitutional amendment or even by an absolute majority in the constitutional revision process. But a draft legislative decree requires only a simple majority, and that is easier to achieve.

Comparison: In the opinion of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Inocencio Oliveira, the federal bloc is equivalent to that in many other countries such as Argentina, for example, which has 50 million inhabitants and 320 deputies. But a study conducted by the Technical Advisory Office of the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] reveals that the lack of proportionality in Brazil is very pronounced in comparison with that in countries such as the United States and Germany, which have practically no distortion.

The states of Alaska, Dakota [as published], and Montana have only one congressman each despite their large populations. The 16 German states also maintain almost perfect proportionality, but there the number of deputies totals 662, while the United States has a total of only 435 representatives.

Distortions Originated in New State

The republican tradition requires that federal deputies be elected by direct suffrage, with the proviso that the number of deputies be proportional to the population of each of Brazil's 27 states. And that is where the distortions begin. But according to Deputy Jose Serra, the distortions are even more visible when a maximum number of deputies per state is established, as happened when the New State was set up in 1937.

The 1946 Constitution, like that of 1967, established a quotient for each deputy. Article 41 of the 1967 Constitution stipulated that one deputy would be elected for every 300,000 inhabitants. Up to 25 deputies, the proportion was one representative for every 1 million inhabitants. In the 1937 Constitution, as modified by the constitutional amendments of 1977, 1982, and 1985, a maximum number was established. At present, the minimum is eight and the maximum is 70. The result, says Jose Serra, is that there is underrepresentation in the most populous states and overrepresentation in the least populated states.

The total number of deputies has changed gradually over the years. In 1977 there were 420 seats in the Federal Chamber of Deputies. In 1982 the number rose to 479. Three years later, the people's representatives numbered 487. In 1986, their number was increased to 495, and finally, in the last Constituent Assembly, their number was set at 503.

Congressional Elections, 1990

Number of deputies			
State	Population	Actual	Theoretical based on population
Amazonas	2,177,316	8	7
Para	5,192,444	17	17
Maranhao	5,202,445	18	17
Piaui	2,728,008	10	9
Ceara	6,532,749	22	22
Rio Grande do Norte	2,393,127	8	8
Paraiba	3,350,485	12	11
Pernambuco	7,451,535	25	25
Alagoas	2,465,245	9	8
Sergipe	1,472,133	8	5
Bahia	11,897,734	39	39
Minas Gerais	16,455,067	53	54
Espirito Santo	2,566,590	10	8
Rio de Janeiro	13,969,946	46	46
Sao Paulo	33,096,435	60	109
Parana	9,253,964	30	30
Santa Catarina	4,501,011	16	15
Rio Grande do Sul	9,356,486	31	31
Mato Grosso	2,023,560	8	7
Mato Grosso do Sul	1,827,700	8	6
Goias	4,184,284	17	14
Acre	423,243	8	1
Amapa	262,944	8	1
Rondonia	1,072,704	8	4
Roraima	132,986	8	0
Federal District	1,803,478	8	6
Tocantins	995,053	8	3
Total	152,788,672	503	503

Source: PSDB Technical Advisory Office

Bills: The proportionality of federal deputies in the Chamber of Deputies has been debated since the Constituent Assembly of 1988. Several bills on the subject have been introduced into the Chamber since that time. There are currently seven bills in committee, and they differ in a number of respects. Those bills increase or decrease the current proportion or simply leave it as it is.

Deputy Paulo Marques (PFL [Liberal Front Party], Pernambuco) introduced a bill in 1988 that would have provided rules for setting the number of deputies. It called for a chamber with a maximum of 600 members rather than the current 503. And Deputy Adhemar de Barros Filho (PRP [Progressive Republican Party], Sao Paulo) submitted a bill establishing criteria for calculating the total number of representatives in the Chamber of Deputies. His bill also provided that their number could not be lower than the number in the 1987-1990 legislature.

In 1991, Deputy Ronaldo Perim (PMDB, Minas Gerais) submitted a bill establishing a system of voting for individuals in elections for the Chamber of Deputies and state legislative assemblies. It abolished the maximum limit on the number of deputies and established a minimum of six representatives for each state.

But the minimums and maximums do not stop there. Deputy Murilo Rezende (PMDB, Piaui) wants to reduce the total number of deputies to 381, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 60. Jorge Tadeu Mudalen (PMDB, Sao Paulo) presents calculations for the makeup of representation in the states. And last, there is Deputy Victor Faccioni's plebiscite calling for the elimination of 100 of the current 503 deputies so as to speed up legislative work and do away with fictitious representation once and for all.

* Loopholes in IPR Bill Before Congress Scored

93SM0221B Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 14 Apr 93 pp 76-79

[Article: "A Law for Taming Pirates"]

[Text] Congress has the chance to stop the assault on other people's inventions in the field of medicines.

Within the next few days, Congress will have in its hands the chance to decide whether Brazil will abandon its place in the distinguished fraternity of countries that deny broad protection for inventions. Brazil is still a member of the most select club in the world: that of the four countries which do not have laws protecting the intellectual production of researchers working in such vital areas of knowledge as the manufacture of medicines and biotechnology, the science that explores the genetic resources of plants and animals. Few languages are spoken in that pirates' club: Bantu (the tribal language of Malawi), the Spanish of Colombia and Argentina, and the Portuguese of Brazil. And that is all. There are no other members. The other 186 nations on the planet protect without exception the creations emerging from the minds of their citizens and of foreigners who want to market those creations in their territories.

After two years of debate, Brazilian congressmen are finally going to vote on an industrial property code that will be acceptable to the country. The proposal that comes closest to international rules is the bill by Deputy Ney Lopes (PFL [Liberal Front Party], Rio Grande do Norte). Another bill, inspired by strong nationalist sentiments but with predictably disastrous results, has been prepared by experts and carries the stamp of Itamar's administration. It seems to be one thing but is actually something else. It reaffirms excessive protection for Brazilian copycats and keeps the country in the brotherhood of international pirates. "My estimate is that 315 deputies will vote for my bill, while 152 support the administration's bill, and 36 are undecided," says Lopes. The deputy spent the Holy Week holidays trying to incorporate into his bill amendments which, while politically attractive to deputies who support the administration, will not distort his original proposal.

By the administration's count, the vote will be closer. It says that Ney Lopes has only 249 assured votes and that the administration has 219. The final decision will depend on which way the undecided deputies—mainly in the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]—decide to vote. The alchemy is complicated. Lopes's bill is an open window on the world. The administration's bill is a reaffirmation of high regard for the club of the four: the pirate gang. The difference is in the extent of protection afforded inventors through patents.

Time for Change

Countries offering patent protection:	
Country	Year adopted
United States	1790*
Paraguay	1925
Uruguay	1941
Great Britain	1949
Australia	1952
New Zealand	1953
France	1960
Germany	1968
Canada	1969
Japan	1976
Italy	1978
South Korea	1987
Mexico	1990
Chile	1991
China	1992
Greece	1992
The only pirates left:	
Argentina	
Colombia	
Malawi	
Brazil	

* The U.S. law has been updated by regulations and court decisions, and since 1978 it has allowed patents on living beings created in a laboratory.

Reward for inventors: A patent is an instrument for protecting intellectual property. It emerged during the Renaissance and has been refined with the passing of the centuries. In form, it is an official record showing that a specific invention belongs to a particular person. Its basic principle is that inventors should be rewarded by being granted a monopoly on the commercial exploitation of their inventions for a certain period of time (17 years in the United States and an average of 15 years in Europe). Because of that, only inventions with a practical use are patentable. Abstract methods, discoveries of new laws of nature, and trivial objects do not merit patent protection. "History shows that inventiveness is directly proportional to the protection which governments give to scientists for the commercial exploitation of their inventions," says Robert Sherwood, an American researcher who wrote the book *Propriedade Intelectual e Desenvolvimento Economico (Intellectual Property and Economic Development)*, which has just been published in Brazil.

Sherwood made a lengthy study of Brazil. He interviewed hundreds of people including researchers, businessmen, deputies, and members of the government. His conclusion: "Understanding of what constitutes intellectual property in Brazil is very scanty. People in general do not realize that protecting an idea means transforming it into a source of wealth," Sherwood told Flavia Sekles, VEJA's correspondent in Washington. It can be said that that faulty understanding is distributed unevenly in society. It does not occur to anyone in Brazil that the author of a song or book is not the owner of his creation and should not profit from its sale.

But there is no consensus on the subject of protection for other intellectual creations. Thousands of pirated copies of computer programs are made in Brazil by people who believe they are entitled to do so and by companies with a reputation for seriousness. Six out of every 10 software programs used in Brazil are illegal copies. Three out of every 10 videotapes bear the stamp of piracy. No one really feels like a criminal when he reproduces or purchases a pirated software program or videotape (see the

report on page 82 [not included here]). A shadowy area conceals another ethical problem that has reached astronomical proportions in Brazil: the registration of famous international trademarks. The National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) has registered more than 7,000 well-known international trademarks in the name of Brazilians. They include the trademarks of Apple computers and British Land Rover jeeps and the American All Star tennis trademark. A scoundrel sees a successful trademark outside Brazil, remembers Gerson's Law, and decides to gain the advantage in that area, too. He registers the trademark and then attempts to sell it back to its legitimate owner. It is unethical to register a famous foreign trademark in one's own name, but there is no agreement that doing so is a crime (see the report on page 80 [not included]).

Brazil protects its authors and industrial inventors with laws, but those laws are often flagrantly flouted. Oddly, however, it does not allow anyone to be the owner of new medicines, metal alloys, or bacteria beneficial to man. Those exceptions—medicines, metal alloys, and biogenetics—are precisely the points of friction that are going to heat up the vote on the patent bill in the Chamber of Deputies within the next few days.

Pirate Territory

Area	What it is	Extent	Legislation
Forgery	Famous labels such as those for Rolex watches and Logan whiskey are placed on extremely poor-quality products imitating the originals.	It is estimated that piracy of this kind causes worldwide losses of $100 billion per year.	Punished in Brazil by the Penal, Industrial Property, and Consumer Rights Codes.
Imitation	The use of designs and brand names deceptively similar to those on products of recognized quality. Examples are Rolex watches and Bhering T-shirts.	The biggest imitators are in Hong Kong and Paraguay. Brazil is not a leader in this field.	In Brazil it is a crime punishable under the Criminal and Consumer Rights Codes.
Copies	The fraudulent reproduction for commercial purposes of phonograph records, CD's, videotapes, and computer programs.	Brazil is a copier's paradise. Three out of every 10 videotapes sold here are illegal copies. Six out of every 10 computer programs are pirated.	The Penal Code protects the original manufacturers of phonograph records, CD's, and videotapes. The Software Law protects computer programs.
Contraband imports	Equipment produced in other countries and sold here as a Brazilian product in order to benefit from the advantages accorded domestic manufacturers.	In Florida and California there are about 300 small firms that specialize in supplying the Brazilian market by this means.	An illegal activity according to the Penal, Consumer Rights, and Industrial Property Codes.
Trademarks	The registration in Brazil of well-known foreign trademarks such as Apple, Pierre Cardin, Land Rover, and All Star.	Over 7,000 trademarks have been registered with the INPI by Brazilian firms. The real owners are buying back those trademarks or regaining them through the courts.	Registration is not illegal. The INPI, which is a government agency, grants registration if requested. But world-famous trademarks are protected by international agreements.
Patents	The right to engage in the exclusive commercial exploitation of an invention for a specific period of time.	Brazil does not protect industrial patents. U.S. laboratories claim to be losing $300 million per year because of piracy.	Medicines and biotechnological processes are not protected. They can be freely copied.

Muzzled Creation: Respect for patents is an ethical issue only at first. A strong economic component is also involved, and it is worth examining. When patents on medicines developed abroad are granted full recognition, a few problems are experienced at home in the beginning. Laboratories that copy foreign formulas receive a jolt, and some may even close their doors, laying off employees. When Italy recognized patents on medicines in 1978, many backyard laboratories closed their doors and went into other lines of business. But there are compensations. Overall, the pharmaceutical industry tends to improve and grow because a country with civilized rules attracts more investment. There is also an incentive for local creation that has been muzzled in Brazil by piracy.

There is irony in the fact that Brazilian scientists have to knock at the doors of neighboring countries seeking patents for their discoveries in the field of medicines and biotechnology. Their motive is obvious: since there are no patents for such products in Brazil, they are in danger of losing their ownership rights if they do not register them in another country. Embrapa (Brazilian Agriculture and Livestock Research Enterprise) developed two new products which it patented abroad to keep them from being copied, at least outside Brazil. One of those products, a more nutritious bean developed through genetic engineering, was patented in Chile. The other, a virus developed to combat a soybean disease, is registered in Paraguay. "That is how the game is played," says Embrapa's president, Murilo Flores. "If we do not patent a product abroad, somebody will register our discovery in his own name."

Biologist Flavio Alterthum, who teaches at the University of Sao Paulo, had a similar experience. While doing research at the University of Florida in the United States, he created a bacterium capable of producing fuel alcohol from plant residue. Alterthum registered his creation with the U.S. Patent Office and was assigned Patent No. 5,000,000. The Brazilian was the subject of articles in several U.S. newspapers. "In Brazil my creation would not have received a

patent," he says. The University of Florida, which has rights on the bacterium created by Alterthum, recently licensed its use to the Brazilian firm Bio Energy. Bio Energy, which is affiliated with the Construcap construction firm in Brasilia, is building a plant in Goias to produce alcohol from sugarcane bagasse. It is an odd situation caused by the failure to respect patents in Brazil. A Brazilian firm is obliged to go to the United States to buy something invented by a Brazilian scientist.

On an experimental ranch operated by the University of Vicosa in Minas Gerais, researchers are keeping a secret concealed in a field planted with 560 different soybean strains. The secret is a new variety capable of producing a clearer and more nutritional flour. It is the result of hard work involving seven years of research at the Biotechnology Center. Under the national law on patents, the new soybean has as much value as a plot of grass. "Without patent protection, the Vicosa Biotechnology Center has lost the opportunity to earn millions of dollars," says Prof. Tuneo Sediyama. Researchers at Vicosa are waiting for legal protection before revealing their creation and marketing it.

Black holes: The administration's bill is a disaster for the country because it resolves none of those situations and also closes the door on many innovations of foreign origin. The black holes in the administration's bill are these:

1. Patents will be granted only for microorganisms. Commercial protection for plants (such as Vicosa's soybean) and animals modified in laboratories by genetic engineering is banned.

2. Brazil will recognize patents only on pharmaceutical products that are not yet being marketed in any other country. This means, for example, that a new cancer remedy introduced in the United States last month will not be granted a Brazilian patent.

3. Brazil will only accept patents that have not already been registered and published abroad. This means that the Brazilian Government expects inventors from all over the world to rush to Brazil to register their ideas even before registering them in the country of origin.

"Those articles in the administration's bill do not solve any of the basic problems affecting the patent issue in Brazil," says Deputy Ney Lopes, the author of a more intelligent bill. Under the terms of Lopes's bill, Brazil will recognize biotechnological patents on modified bacteria, animals, and plants but exclude from protection living beings such as those found in nature or produced by purely natural means. As regards medicines, Lopes's bill sends Brazil into the game playing by the best international rules. The country would begin accepting the registration of patents on medicines even if those patents were already in force in the country of origin. It makes only one exception: a medicine that is already being copied can continue to be sold. Only new copies are banned.

Why, then, does the administration's bill insist on preserving piracy? Once again, the source of the problem is a mistaken good intention. What the administration wants to do is continue protecting the domestic pharmaceutical industry. But once again the question is raised: what does that domestic industry, which Brazil protects so much, consist of? Sad to say, the protection of piracy has never been enough to create a respectable pharmaceutical industry in Brazil. Flourishing alongside a few laboratories of unquestionable quality are hundreds of backyard factories where chemicals are mixed to produce simple medicines—often with no quality control. There are records of laboratories selling something different from what is indicated on the label. Some of those cases involve inoffensive drugs similar to sugared water, but others put the user at risk.

"Brazil's insistence on being different and protecting piracy causes irritation and a loss of prestige for the country," says businessman Laerte Setubal Filho, director of the Foreign Trade Department at the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries. To protect an industrial body that is good in only one leg and rotten in the other, Brazil is buying an ugly fight with the United States. According to the U.S. pharmaceutical industry's figures, the damage done by Brazilian piracy comes to $300 million per year. A process of trade retaliation by the U.S. Government is already on the way. Three years ago the Americans retaliated for the same reason, and the losers were Brazilian paper exporters—to the tune of $100 million in one year. The Americans usually attack where it hurts the most. Their targets for retaliation—exporters of oranges, steel, and footwear—have nothing to do with pharmaceutical pirates. In these cases, the United States follows the principle that calls for causing the same amount of harm that it has suffered. This means that if there is retaliation, the Americans will not decide they have had enough until Brazilian exporters have bled the same $300 million.

Life With and Without Piracy

Area	With piracy	Without piracy	In countries that respect patents
Employment	Domestic pharmaceutical labs have grown by producing popular medicines and copying formulas developed abroad. The result is that they employ over 100,000 people.	The Brazilian pharmaceutical industry is small considering the country's size. It could employ many more people if it manufactured better medicines. Respect for patents is a step in that direction.	Italy has respected patents since 1978. Many backyard labs have shut down. The good ones, both domestic and foreign, have made progress. They now employ more people than before.
Price of medicines	Medicines in Brazil would cost more if the labs had to pay royalties and license fees. Licensing a patented product costs from 1 to 5 percent of the medicine's sales price.	Prices would go up at first. But accepting patents causes investment to grow and encourages competition. In the long run, prices tend to fall.	In Mexico, Italy, and Chile, prices rose in the year following the adoption of patent laws but then stabilized. In many cases they fell.
Quality of medicines	Domestic labs produce almost no medicines essential to health. Numerically, they constitute 90 percent of the market. Because they produce simple drugs, they bill only 28 percent.	With patent protection, foreign firms feel more secure, invest more, and resell their formulas to domestic labs whose quality they guarantee.	Respect for patents has attracted direct investment to various countries and encouraged domestic investment in technology. For economic reasons, the pharmaceutical industry tends to produce a great many of its medicines locally.
Biotechnology	Brazil has one of the biggest genetic resource pools in the world. It is feared that the active principles contained in plants and animals will be patented abroad	Recognition of patents is the only guarantee that the genetic pool will be researched and marketed by both Brazilians and foreigners.	Although possessing less abundant natural resources, the industrialized countries have managed to turn those resources into a source of wealth. About 30 percent of all medicines have their origin in some plant or animal.

Cocktails: Although considerable harm is done by retaliation, it is far from being the main reason for adopting decent legislation. There are other quite telling reasons. One of them is the fact that biotechnology generates wealth only if its products are protected. "Brazil has tremendous chances for becoming prominent in this field," says Sherwood. The products of biotechnology could be generating business worth $600 million per year in Brazil. The 30 private firms existing in the country are unable to bill more than $50 million per year. "As long as there is no clear law defending industrial property, no one will venture to take anything created here out of the drawer," says Antonio Paes de Carvalho, president of the Brazilian Association of Biotechnology Firms.

"Respect for patents can even improve the quality of Brazilian medicines. For example, it can put an end to the medical cocktails which are produced only for their commercial effect and which are the mainstay of many domestic laboratories," says immunologist Morton Scheinberg, director of the Arnaldo Vieira de Carvalho Cancer Institute in Sao Paulo. Those cocktails are dangerous because they have many side effects, and there is no way to monitor them. Last week the Ministry of Health signaled its intention to try to solve the problem even before the new patent law takes effect. It intends to issue a directive banning the sale of 6,000 medicines that are a blend of unsuitable substances. The patent law that will be passed by the Chamber of Deputies does not have the power to end all the abuses, nor will it be able on its own to pull Brazil out of its technological and scientific immobilism. What it can do is make Brazil a country less hostile to and less feared by foreign investors and less similar to Malawi and Colombia. Even that is something.

Chile

Air Force Denies Flights Over Argentine Territory

PY0605132393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2333 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Santiago, 5 may (EFE)—The Chilean Air Force today denied to EFE reports from Buenos Aires of an alleged flight by Chilean military planes over Argentine territory.

Colonel Carlos Hernando Leslie, Chilean Air Force public relations chief, said the report was "an irresponsible assertion lacking seriousness."

According to a report attributed to Argentine Air Force sources, Argentine radar identified the Chilean aircraft as Mirage 5 fighter bombers. The planes were observed by the inhabitants of Santa Cruz Province, 2,500 km south of Buenos Aires.

The Chilean military planes allegedly entered Argentine territory between 28 and 30 April, according to the same sources.

Colonel Hernando told EFE that he could not endorse such reports "which are unfounded and untruthful."

He said: "Chilean planes do not just go for a ride in the sky; they comply a very serious training program because we are professionals."

According to reports from Buenos Aires, the incident motivated a consultation between the Argentine and Chilean Foreign Ministries, thus using a mechanism implemented since the two countries began a rapprochement policy, diplomatic sources said.

Pinochet on Emergency Measures Army Assistance, 'Rumors' of 'Poor Health'

PY0605232293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Report by Gerardo Beltran]

[Excerpts] Army Commander Augusto Pinochet today commented on how the Army is assisting in the emergency measures adopted to aid those affected by the mudslides in the Las Perdices area, in La Flordia and Penalolen districts. Pinochet made this statement during a recess at a seminar on Army-media ties at the Army War School. [passage omitted]

Moreover, General Augusto Pinochet denied rumors about his poor health. He said he is in perfect health condition. He also declined to comment on reports about the alleged pardon granted to extremists involved in the attack on the Los Quenes police post in 1987. [date as heard] [passage omitted]

Committee for Defense of People's Rights Identifies 6 Pardoned by President

PY0705025293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Report by Terese Barria]

[Text] The Committee for Defense of People's Rights, Codepu, has identified the six people who were pardoned by the president. They have been identified as follows: (Carlos Rios Basi), (Jose Ugarte Gonzalez), (Jose Donoso Caceres), (Manuel Araneda Gonzalez), (Richard Ledesma Plaza), and (Miguel Angel Colinas). All of them were sentenced for their involvement in the attack against the Los Quenes police post in October 1988.

Codepu lawyers have also reported that three of these people have refused to accept the commutation of their sentences to banishment. They are (Carlos Rios Basi), (Jose Ugarte), and (Jose Donoso).

In this regard Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido said that when the request for commutation was submitted to the president, it was specified that those involved would have to agree to banishment.

[Begin Cumplido recording] As in previous cases, when the case in question involves the commutation of a jail sentence to banishment, the president demands that the person involved submit a voluntary request in this regard.

This is the normal procedure to follow. If there are those who believe this is an imposition, they are free to think what they will. But if an individual voluntarily requests a pardon, I believe the situation is quite clear, as pardons cannot be issued ex-officio. They can only be issued if an individual submits the pertinent request. [end recording]

Answering a question about a criticism made today by the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] which stated that these pardons are symptomatic of the government's weakness toward terrorism, Cumplido said that this was nonsense, and added that these statements are groundless.

* Coalition Wins Majority in Regional Councils

* Metropolitan Region Results

93SM0237A Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Apr 93 pp A1, A15

[Text]

- The Coalition made off with the majority of the country's 13 regions, and the government and opposition each gained eight council members only in the 11th Region. In all, 244 regional council members were elected in the entire national territory.
- In 11 instances, there were ties in the vote, which will have to be settled through a drawing of lots by the respective regional electoral boards within the next few days.
- Acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco claimed that the process took place in a completely normal manner.

Yesterday, the election of members of the 13 regional councils due to take office on 23 April was achieved throughout the entire national territory, in a completely normal atmosphere, resulting in a majority for the Coalition.

According to information emanating from the Interior Ministry, out of the total of 244 council members elected nationwide, the government political bloc attained 134, the opposition parties won 86, and another 13 went to independent candidates or those from other parties. In 11 cases there were ties that will have to be settled by the respective regional electoral boards.

The Coalition made off with the majority of council members in 12 of the country's regions, and a tie with the opposition occurred in the 11th Region, where each obtained eight council members.

According to the provisions of Constitutional Organic Law No. 19,175, on Regional Government and Administration, there were to be elections yesterday of a 14-member council in the Ninth Region; of 16-member councils in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth Regions; of 18-member councils in the Seventh and 11th Regions; of a 20-member council in the 10th region; of a 22-member council in the Eighth Region; of a 26-member council in the Metropolitan Region; and, finally, of a 28-member council in the Fifth Region.

The election process began at 0900 in 47 of the total of 51 provinces; and it was only in Arica, Elqui, Arauco, and Llanquihue that the board members could not be installed until noon to begin the voting. In most instances the voting and counting ended during the morning, except in Valparaiso and Santiago Provinces,

where the process lasted until early afternoon, owing to the large numbers of board members who had to vote.

In all, 2,082 board members were supposed to participate in the elections nationwide, and it was incumbent on them to nominate 244 regional council members from the total of 334 registered candidates.

Making an assessment of the day's events, acting Interior Minister Belisario Velasco commented at La Moneda: "The election took place in a completely calm and normal manner throughout the entire country." He added that, with this day's events, "a step has been taken in the democratization and decentralization process in which the supreme government is engaged."

Opposition spokesmen, for their part, expressed the hope that the new council members will work for the benefit of the region and the common welfare, over and above their own partisan political interests.

Velasco reported that the results of these elections are due to be analyzed by the regional electoral boards on 8 April, and that the deadline for submitting protests expires on 14 April. According to the respective legislation, the Election Rating Board must proclaim the winners on 17 April, so that the new members of the regional councils may be officially installed on 23 April.

Velasco explained that the cases in which there are ties in the number of votes must be settled by the regional electoral boards, with a drawing of lots.

According to law, the regional council (together with the superintendent) is responsible for administering regional development and for ensuring the regional community's participation. For this purpose, it is invested with regulatory, resolutory, and supervisory powers. The council members are in office for four years, and may be reelected.

Among other functions, the regional council is responsible for approving the communal and intercommunal regulatory plans; deciding on the distribution of funds allocated by the National Regional Development Fund (FNDR), and the sectorial investment programs with regional assignment; and supervising the performance of the regional superintendent and of the units subordinate to him.

This year's budget based on regional decisions, which must be prioritized by the newly elected regional councils, amounts to a total of 104.496 billion pesos. Of that sum, 53 billion comes from the FNDR, and another 47 billion is related to ministerial programs with regional assignment.

Superintendent Pareto

Metropolitan Superintendent Luis Pareto declared that the regional councils elected yesterday would assume important powers, surpassing those of the present Coredes [Regional Development Councils] to a considerable extent.

He explained that, in any event, the new organs will not restrict the superintendents' current authority. Rather, Law 19,175 increases the powers of the regional head of government, concurrently granting the regional council oversight authority over him.

He remarked: "The regional council does not represent a joint government; rather, it approves, rejects, or replaces the plans proposed to it by the superintendent, and oversees his work."

He stressed that the new councils will be comprised of politicians with technical qualifications, which is an unprecedented experience. "We shall see how it works," he noted.

The mayor of Santiago, Jaime Ravinet, also attached a pioneer significance to this process. He claimed that, for the first time in Chile's institutional history, the central government is transferring to representative organs (in this case, the regional councils) the decisions on prioritizing public funds for investment in areas such as infrastructure, health, and housing.

While waiting to vote at the Municipal Theater, Ravinet observed that the regional communities will now have to acquire a greater managerial capacity to meet this new challenge, relying on the municipalities and their technical agencies.

In this connection, he assessed the quality of the candidates who ran for office in the Metropolitan Region, claiming that they are professionals linked with economic activities and urban development. He noted that this warrants optimism regarding their good performance.

The mayor of Las Condes, Joaquin Lavin, for his part, stressed that, with yesterday's election, another phase has beem completed in the democratic institutionalization process initiated with municipal reform.

Lavin voiced his hope that the new regional councils will help to expand the regional communities' autonomy in making the decisions incumbent on them. He remarked: "It is of particular concern to me, as mayor, that the persons elected think of the region and the common welfare over and above their partisan political tendencies."

Santiago Council Members

The election of the 16 regional council members for Santiago Province took place at the Municipal Theater, where 227 board members from all the communes in the jurisdiction gathered (only three failed to attend the elections). The voting took place slowly, owing to the inexperience of the board members and the large numbers of voters. The situation even led to a heated argument between the chairman of the board, William Arredondo (board member from Quinta Normal) and the Santiago board member, Herman Chadwick. The latter reproached the chairman for his inability to conduct the electoral process more quickly.

In Santiago Province (where it was necessary to elect 16 out of a total of 26 council members for the Metropolitan Region), five lists were registered, representing National Renewal [RN], Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPD], Independent Democratic Union [UDI], and two unipersonal entities.

When the votes were counted, 10 council members were elected from the Coalition, three from National Renewal, two from the UDI, and one from the Green Humanist Alliance Party [PAHV].

Elected as representatives of the Coalition were: Jaime Fuentealba (17 votes), of the Socialist Party [PS]; Ricardo Troncoso (15 votes), Jose Antonio Gomez (14), Patricio Vallespin (14), Juan Arias (14), Adrian Torres (14), and Francisco Fernandez (13), all of Christian Democracy [DC]; Francisco Vidal (14 votes) and Patricio Cotal (14), of the Party for Democracy [PPD]; and Benjamin Teplizky (8), of the Radical Party [PR].

Elected representing National Renewal were: council members Fernando Lihn (14 votes), Carlos Correa (13), and Nelson Radice (7). On the other hand, Gerardo Monckeberg (15 votes) and Andres Tagle (10) were elected as representatives of the UDI.

The first electoral majority was won by the Humanist representative, Patricia Condemarin, with 18 votes. She was elected with the backing of the board members from the Green Humanist Alliance and the MIDA [Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement].

Metropolitan Council Members

The following council members were elected in the Metropolitan Region:

Chacabuco Province: Oscar Olavarria (DC) and Victor Ramirez (PR).

Santiago Province: Nelson Radice (RN), Carlos Correa (RN), Fernando Lihn (RN), Jose Antonio Gomez (DC), Patricio Vallespin (DC), Ricardo Troncoso (DC), Francisco Fernandez (DC), Juan Arias (DC), Adrian Torres (DC), Francisco Vidal (PPD), Patricio Cotal (PPD), Jaime Fuentealba (PS), Benjamin Teplizky (PR), Patricia Condemarin (PAHV), Gerardo Monckeberg (UDI), and Andres Tagle (UDI).

Melipilla Province: Andres Vicuna (RN), and Pedro Bernardo de Quiroz (DC).

Talagante Province: Ernesto Muller (UDI) and Pedro Butazzoni (DC).

Maipo Province: Ramon Velasquez (DC) and Patricia Figueroa (UDI).

Cordillera Province: Carlos Ossandon (RN). The other seat will be subject to a drawing between Luis Rengifo (DC) and Pedro Ponce (PS), whose votes were tied.

Statistics on Regional Council Member Elections, April 1993

	Elected							Unsettled					
Region Name	Coalition		Opposition		Others		Unsettled Posts	Coalition		Opposition		Others	
I. Tarapaca Region	6	28.6%	5	23.8%	2	9.5%	3	5	23.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
II. Antofagasta Region	9	50.0%	6	33.3%	0	0.0%	1	1	5.6%	1	5.6%	0	0.0%
III. Atacama Region	8	50.0%	5	31.2%	3	18.8%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
IV. Coquimbo Region	9	56.2%	7	43.8%	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
V. Valparaiso Region	16	57.1%	10	35.7%	2	7.1%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
VI. Liberador Gen. Bernardo O'Higgins Region	9	56.2%	7	43.8%	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
VII. Maule Region	9	45.0%	6	30.0%	2	10.0%	1	2	10.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
VIII. Bio-Bio Region	16	61.5%	4	15.4%	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	3	11.5%	1	3.8%
IX. La Araucania Region	7	41.2%	5	29.4%	1	5.9%	1	0	0.0%	2	11.8%	1	5.9%
X. Los Lagos Region	11	55.0%	8	40.0%	1	5.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.00	0	0.0%
XI. Gen. C. Ibanez del Campo Region	8	38.1%	8	38.1%	0	0.0%	2	3	14.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Statistics on Regional Council Member Elections, April 1993 (Continued)

Region Name	Elected						Unsettled Posts	Unsettled					
	Coalition		Opposition		Others			Coalition		Opposition		Others	
XII. Magallanes and Chilean Antarctic Region	11	61.1%	6	33.3%	1	5.6%	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Metropolitan Region	15	53.6%	9	32.1%	1	3.6%	1	2	7.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

* Results in Major Cities

93SM0237B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 4 Apr 93 p C2

[Text] The election of regional council members took place normally in the country's various sections. Following are the details on the candidates elected by the municipal board members in some of the leading cities:

Curico

Curico (Aquiles Melendez Cabello)—Two Christian Democrats one Socialist, one candidate from UDI [Independent Democratic Union], and one from RN [National Renewal] were elected regional council members during the process held in this city.

Voting in the process were 51 board members out of the 54 in the province's communes. Those elected were Juan Labra (DC) [Christian Democracy], Guillermo Crespo (UDI), Jorge de la Fuente (DC), Mario Flores (PS) [Socialist Party], and Francisco Bruron (RN).

Linares

Linares (Raul Balboa Ibanez)—The opposition elected three regional council members in this province, and the Coalition, two; even though this government bloc has the majority of board members: 26 versus 22.

Elected were: Heraclio Rojas (independent); Guillermo Martinez and Guillermo Marin (RN); Luis Suazo (PDC [Christian Democratic Party]); and one PPD [Party for Democracy] or PS candidate. The latter, Alejandro Montecinos and Fernando Rojas, must submit to a drawing since their votes were tied.

Concepcion

Concepcion (Patrico Gomez Couchot)—The Coalition obtained 15 of the 22 regional council members elected in the Eighth Region yesterday. The other seven seats went to the opposition.

A total of 303 board members were qualified to vote in the process, and the elections were held normally, on the premises established in the four provinces comprising the Eighth Region.

In Concepcion Province, where nine were nominated, six from the Coalition were elected: Hernan Ugarte (DC), with the first majority; Hernan Cardenas (PS), Arodys Lepe (PPD), Luis Larenas (PR) [Radical Party], Ruben Enriquez (PDC), Damian Caba (PDC), and Juan Ignacio Ugarte (DC).

The opposition gained two: Enrique Van Rysselbergue (UDI), and a second to be decided by the Electoral Board, through a drawing between Oscar Cornejo (RN) and Luis Smith (UCC [Center-Center Union]); because both received four preferences.

In Nuble Province, Maurico Carreras (DC), Idelfonso Galaz (DC), and Juan Lopez (PS) were elected on behalf of the Coalition. Nominated by the opposition were Claudio Aguiluz and Horacio Borquez, both from RN.

In Bio-Bio, the Coalition gained four council members: Pedro Sanchez Soto (PPD), Mario Gonzalez (PDC), Victor Munoz (PR), and Marcelo Urrutia (PDC). The opposition nominated Gildardo Aravena, from the UDI.

Elected in Arauco Province were: Carlos Urrutia Bascur (DC) and Carlos Martinez del Rio (PR). The opposition gained one, who will have to be determined through a drawing by the Electoral Board, between Jaime Dinamarca of the UDI and Hector Lisboa Basualto, of RN, who were tied with four preferences each. Of the 15 council members obtained by the Coalition, the PDC won nine; the PPD, two; the PR, three; and the PS, two.

Temuco

Temuco (Javier Orellana)—The Coalition suffered an unexpected defeat yesterday in the elections of the regional council members for Cautin Province, including its regional president, Radical Party member Hector Pantoja.

The result was a tie at five in Cautin, and three to one in favor of the government in Malleco. Thus, the Coalition was left with eight council members, and the opposition with six.

A total of 113 board members voted in Cautin. Elected on behalf of the opposition were Silvia Horns, Eugenio Roth, Rene Araneda, Orlando Morales, and Monica Sabugal. Winners for the Coalition were Ivan Saavedra, Joaquin Tuma, Juan Meza, Waldo Osorio, and Luis Campos.

In Malleco, there was a tie for the fourth seat among three opposition candidates with eight votes: Ricardo Matte, Joaquin de la Fuente, and Ricardo Germani. They will have to attend a drawing before the Regional Electoral Board, which will make the decision.

The others elected from the Coalition were Roberto Parant and Edgar Herdener.

In Chillan

Chillan (Jose Luis Montes)—The electoral process to determine the five Nuble regional council members who will take office on 23 April representing the Eighth Region occurred normally.

Two representatives of RN, two from DC, and one from PS were elected based on the vote count made by the province's 122 board members.

Mauricio Careaga and Idelfonso Eguiluz, both from the PDC, received the most votes, with 26 preferences. They were followed by Claudio Eguiluz (RN) and Horacio Borquez (RN). The fifth council member was Juan Lopez (PS).

Colchagua

San Fernando (correspondent)—One board member from Chimbarongo and another from San Fernando, out of total of 57, could not vote in the election process for regional council members, because they lacked an identification card.

They are the board members Osvaldo Maturana and Rafael Lopez, respectively. Of the others, 51 marked their preferences and four cast blank ballots.

In this province, virtually the same number of candidates had been registered to run for the seats to be voted on, and they were the following: List 1: Andres Balmaceda and Sergio Schlack; List 2: Eduardo Caro, Mario Albarran, and Carlos Echazarreta.

Punta Arenas

Punta Arenas (Pilar Espinosa Ribas)—The Coalition elected the candidates running for regional council membership in the 12th Region of Magallanes and Chilean Antarctica. Added to them was a pro-Coalition independent, who was on a one-name list. Hence, the Coalition gained 11 posts. The opposition elected six council members.

The council members elected in Magallanes Province are the following: Boris Stipicic and Guillermo Velaszquez (PPD), Mario Maturana and Sergio Ruiz (PDC), Hugo Vera and Raul Hein (PS), Hernan Quintana (PR), Arturo Storaker (UDI), Jose Camelio and Jose Fernandez (RN), and Antonio Canon (independent). Elected In Ultima Esperanza Province were: Giovanni Torteroglio (PR), Carlos Yanez (PDC), and Gaston Lopez (UDI). Torteroglio received support from the three UCC board members. The council members elected in Tierra del Fuego Province are Fernando Callahan (UDI) and Miguel Sierpe (PDC). Elected in Chilean Antarctic Province are Jorge Buvinic (RN) and Mateo Martinic (PDC).

Rancagua

Rancagua (Liliana Astudillo)—Five regional council members were elected by the Coalition parties of Cachapoal to join the council in the Sixth Region, whereas the opposition obtained four seats.

Present on the voting site at the Cachapoal Governor's Office were 101 of the 104 board members. The vote count gave the following results: Victoriano Centenario (DC), of San Vicente de Tagua Tagua; Bernardo Zapata (DC), of Rengo; Ricardo Trincado (PS), of Rengo; Luis Perez (UDI), of Rengo; Rene Tello (RN), of Rancagua; Victor Leiva (PR), of Rengo; Eugenio Bauer (independent on the RN-UDI list), of Donihue; Gilberto Sanchez (independent on the RN-UDI list), and Rolando Cardenas (PPD), both of Rancagua.

Osorno

Osorno (Eugenio Calcagno)—The Coalition's first list obtained 27 preferences, compared with 16 for the opposition's second list. Therefore, the former gained three council members, and National Renewal, one.

Participating in the electoral process were 38 of the 44 board members from the seven communes, designating the province's four representatives on the regional council.

Those elected were Arturo Castro Winkler (DC), Carlos Mansilla Solis (DC), and Ivan Aedo Morales (PPD). Juan Schmitz Buuken (RN) was elected representing the opposition.

Coyhaique

Coyhaique (Carolina Silva)—Ten representatives of the Coalition and seven from the opposition were elected council members for the 11th Region. Another seat (in Coyhaique Province) will have to be decided by the Electoral Board between a representative of National Renewal and other from Christian Democracy. Based on the distribution factor, however, both have an option.

In Aysen Province, the aforementioned board will also have to select two of the Coalition's three representatives, one from the PR, and two from the PDC, who were elected with the same number of votes.

Elected in Coyhaique were: Gabriel Santelices (DC), Pedro Cristi (DC), German Ochsenius (PR), Jaime Ruz (PPD), Luis Picuntureo (PS), and Alberto Brautigan (PR).

The board will have to determine whether another seat will be occupied by Rodolfo Bachler or Eduardo Vera, both from RN, who obtained an equal vote, or by Lucy Puchi (DC), who, although she won no votes, also has an option, based on the distribution factor.

Elected in Aysen Province were Luis Melian (PS), Oscar Catalan (RN), Carlos Vial (RN), and Patricio Silva (UDI). Here, too, the board will have to intervene, designating two out of three Coalition representatives

who won the same number of votes: Luisa Conucar (PR), Victor Aldunate (DC), and Jaime Duran (DC).

Elected in General Carrera Province were Quemel Sade (RN) and Carlos Martinez (DC).

The new council members in Capitan Prat Province are Lidia Moreno (RN) and Marco Antonio Fierro (DC).

Valparaiso

Valparaiso—The Regional Council of the Fifth Region, the country's largest, was comprised of 16 Coalition representatives, 11 from the opposition (including the UCC), and one independent.

There was a surprise in the election of the 28 members of the Fifth Region's council, held yesterday morning in the seven provinces. It was caused by the independent candidate, Rodrigo Oliver, who was competing for Valparaiso Province, and won the largest majority, obtaining the votes of the six board members from the Juan Fernandez commune.

The elected council members, who will take office in the regional council of the Fifth Region on 23 April, are the following:

For Valparaiso Province: Adolfo Airola (DC), Orielle Zencovich (DC), Manuel Tobar (DC), Romeo Di Lortora (DC), Pedro Carrasco (PR), Max Bastidas (PPD), Gabriel Campos (RN), Oscar Buna (RN independent), Roberto Lecaros (RN independent), Carlos Salinas (UCC), Carlos Calderon (UDI independent), and Rodrigo Oliver (independent). Since there are 12 seats for Valparaiso Province, only two candidates were not elected.

For Isla de Pascua [Easter Island] Province: Jorge Pont (PPD) and Juan Edmunds (RN).

For San Felipe Province: Emiliano Caballero (DC), Luis Henriquez (DC), and Justus Lodtmann (RN).

For Quillota Province: Joaquin Barrera (RN independent), Sergio de la Cuadra (DC), Nilton Vergara (PR), and Hector Lucero (DC).

For San Antonio Province: Humberto Cabrera (DC), Gaston Pereira (PR), and Jaime Zabala (RN).

In Arica

Arica (correspondent)—In this provincial jurisdiction of Tarapaca, the Coalition gained five regional council seats and the RN-UDI pact won two.

The candidates elected are: Marcelo Isla (DC), Octavio Arratia (DC), Tomislav Justinianovic (PR), Jose Rul Rojas (PPD), and Claudio Ojeda (Green Humanist Alliance).

Elected representing the National Renewal and UDI pact were Gabriel Abusleme and Mario Palma, respectively.

In Iquique

Iquique (Sergio Montivero Bruna)—With 90 percent of the board members participating in the election, the Coalition obtained four council members, and two seats were taken by National Renewal and an opposition independent candidate, filling the seven corresponding vacancies.

A total of 34 out of the 39 board members participated, electing seven members among 16 candidates. The vote was as follows: List 1 (Coalition): Jose Segura (PR), four votes; Boris Gonzalez (PS), four; Homero Varela (DC), three; Raul Espinoza (DC), three; Antonio Mamani (PPD), three; Guido Valdivia (independent), two.

National Renewal list: Max Barrera, four; Emilio Choque, three; Giorgio Macchiavello, two; Rodrigo Soler, one.

The opposition independent, Aliro Ossio, won four votes; and Pedro Cisternas, of the MIDA [Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement], one vote.

Puerto Montt

Puerto Montt (Moyra Holzapfel)—The Coalition list was the winner in the election of the 10th Region's 20 regional council members. It gained 11 council members, compared with the opposition's nine.

In the five provinces, the first list won 11 elected members, versus the opposition's nine. There were only two surprises, in Osorno and Chiloe Provinces.

In Valdivia Province, the six candidates (two from DC, one from PPD, two from RN, and one opposition independent) were elected, as had been anticipated.

In Osorno Province, the Coalition obtained three elected council members (two from DC and one from PPD), versus one for National Renewal. The introduction of two opposition independent candidates divided the vote, ultimately benefiting the Coalition.

In Llanquihue, three of the Coalition's candidates were elected (two from DC and one from PPD), as were two from the center right.

In Chiloe, the other regional surprise in these elections was the election of the two National Renewal candidates opposing the one from the Coalition; because, unlike what occurred in Osorno, the running of an independent from the Coalition benefited the second list.

In Antofagasta

Antofagasta (correspondent)—Six Coalition candidates and two from the UDI-National Renewal pact were elected in the provinces of Antofagasta's Second Region, namely, Mejillones, Taltal, Sierra Gorda, and Antofagasta.

The vote received was as follows: Coalition: Jose Beizaga (PS), Jaime Lagos (PR), Wilfredo Castro (PPD), Daniel Leiva (PS), Daniel Miranda (DC), and Patricio Caicedo (DC): all with three votes apiece.

UDI-RN pact: Alfredo Chellew, of UDI, and Sergio de los Rios, of RN, were elected, both with four votes.

Colombia

Government To Increase Measures Against 'Narcoterrorism,' Guerrillas

PA0605190993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The government announced on 6 May that it will increase the measures directed at fighting narcoterrorism and the guerrillas. Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez said just moments ago that the government will study new legal action to reinforce the war against the drug cartels and the subversive groups during an extraordinary Council of Ministers meeting at midday:

[Begin Villegas recording] Not only do we hope that the decrees that have already been issued will remain in effect with the extension of the state of internal disturbance, but we also hope we can modify, correct, and broaden them and issue new decrees whenever necessary or when the government deems such action appropriate to face these criminal groups. [end recording]

The Council of Minister is also studying the possibility of making the budget adjustments needed to issue new measures under the state of disturbance, the extension of which was approved on the evening of 5 May.

Government Officials Meet Drug Cartels' Representative

PA0605183593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Attorney General Carlos Gustavo Arrieta made an important announcement early on 6 May regarding the possibility that a large group of drug traffickers from the western part of the country, between 100 and 150, may surrender to justice.

The attorney general clearly stated that although the leak of this report generates some expectations, he does not harbor false illusions, because the process is still at a very early stage and it is not a formal proposal.

A large number of drug traffickers from the cartels in western Colombia reportedly offered to surrender and to abandon their criminal activities.

The prosecutor general of the Republic, the attorney general, the National Police director, the Administrative Department of Security director, and the defense minister listened attentively for 45 minutes to a representative of the drug cartels, apparently a lawyer who is possibly a former National Constituent Assembly delegate. On 5 May, the cartels' representative presented a proposal to the government officials in Santa Fe de Bogota on behalf of a large group of drug traffickers from western Colombia who wish to surrender to justice and to end narcotics trafficking activities.

Following the meeting, the government officials held a closed-door discussion to analyze the situation. Each official left for his home thinking about this initiative.

The representatives of the cartels in the western part of the country are expected to make a new statement.

Drug Kingpin Captured, DEA Extraditing

PA0705030793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 May 93

[Report by Diego Hernan Canales]

[Text] On 6 May a blow was dealt to the Medellin Cartel's organization entrusted with distributing cocaine all over the world. Its leader, Guido Fernando Leon Reategui, a Peruvian citizen who is a fugitive of the United States, was arrested in the United States for managing a Medellin Cartel office in Miami. He was freed on bail after promising to cooperate with the DEA and the FBI, but he escaped.

[Begin Administrative Department of Security Director Fernando Britto recording] He established himself in our country under a false identity. We believe, thanks to the information that we have, that he plays an important role in the Medellin Cartel's drug trafficking to the United States. [end recording]

Leon Reategui escaped with the assistance of Fernando Londono Velasquez, alias Neri, and Cesar Augusto Londono Velasquez, alias Manis, both brothers-in-law of Pablo Escobar. They took him to Medellin, and from there, following orders issued by the Cartel chief, he moved to Santa Fe de Bogota.

His recapture took place in the early hours of 6 May in an exclusive sector of northern Bogota. Leon Reategui was found with false documents, weapons, and identification papers belonging to an Army member.

[Begin Britto recording] These identification papers were really a curious item among the things that were seized. It is possible that he may have used them at one time or another to avoid detection. [end recording]

In addition, Leon Reategui was found to have recordings of conversations dealing with drug shipment operations. His extradition has been requested by the United States and the procedures for sending him are already under way.

Army Says EPL Leader Francisco Caraballo 'Alive'

PA0605194993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Francisco Caraballo, the leader of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] dissident wing, is alive. General Manuel Jose Guzman, the commander of the Army, has just confirmed that the body found was that of a guerrilla known as El Caballo.

[Begin Guzman recording] We know from intelligence reports based on investigations at the site that a bandit using the alias of El Caballo—not Caraballo, but El Caballo—died there. This young man, this EPL bandit, was operating in the Uraba area. [end recording]

Ecuador

President Refuses To Accept Ministers' Resignations

PA0705001393 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2303 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The conservative government's ministers resigned today, but President Sixto Duran-Ballen refused to accept their resignations, according to government spokesman Jose Vicente Maldonado:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Is each cabinet member still in office?

[Maldonado] The president has not accepted the ministers' resignations, which they have presented for various reasons or under various circumstances. Now I must leave.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct].

[Maldonado] There is only one team at work.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct].

[Maldonado] Not yet.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct].

[Maldonado] I will explain: Each of the ministers has argued various circumstances and reasons—such as personal or health—for resigning. Yet this decision is necessary, and the president and the government understands it. [end recording]

Government Announces Economic Measures, Denies Rumors of 'Internal Rift'

PA0705042093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Ecuadoran Government announced the adoption of new economic measures, including increases in the electricity and telephone tariffs, within the framework of an adjustment agreement currently being negotiated with the IMF.

The measures announced by President Sixto Duran-Ballen on 5 May unleashed a wave of rumors—quickly denied—about an internal rift in the government regarding the volume of the increases. The official denial was also aimed at countering the uncertainty that prevailed in the economic and financial markets due to rumors about a possible devaluation and an increase in fuel prices.

International Company Finds New Crude Deposits

PA0505200793 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] The Occidental Company is the fourth international oil company that has found new crude deposits for the nation's production. In the Amazon region, block 15, the company started to pump 15,000 b.p.d. [barrels per day] to the control center in [word indistinct]. The technicians plan to increase the pumping of crude to 30,000 b.p.d., beginning in July. Pablo Baquerizo, mines and energy minister, said that the works carried out by the Occidental Company contribute to raising by 15 percent the nation's reserves to 225 million barrels. According to Baquerizo, Ecuador's crude production for 1993 will be 124.9 million barrels.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Addresses Nation Before Elections

PY0705014093 Asuncion Radio and Television Network in Spanish 2258 GMT 6 May 93

[Address to the nation by President Andres Rodriguez in Asuncion on 6 May—recorded; broadcast in network over national radio and television]

[Text] Dear fellow countrymen, only a few hours before the most important political act of the current constitutional period, I felt the obligation to address all Paraguayans, to reflect upon the political moment we are now living through.

We are about to hold the first free and truly democratic elections in the entire history of our Republic. We have reached this stage by treading a path which, like all paths trod by humans, has held light and shadow, joy and sadness. This moment is the result of decisions made with our minds set on the well-being of the fatherland, and by sheltering each and every Paraguayan in our hearts.

The imperative objective of democratizing the Paraguayan Republic is about to be fulfilled, thanks to important steps that must be mentioned here. We have played a meaningful role in this process, although we have not been the sole protagonists. We have imposed upon ourselves the obligation of democratizing the political parties, which represent political will and are the main sponsors of this process. To do that, we have counted on the institutions established by Law 1/90 of the Electoral Code. Through the enforcement of this important law, we also faced the challenge of drafting and giving the country a new Constitution. In this Constitution, I considered it important to ensure not only the freedom and openness of the elections, but also strict public freedom and the full enforcement of freedom of the press. In this way I made sure that the efforts of the Constituent Assembly fully represented the will of the Paraguayan people.

By promoting, defending, and consolidating respect for human rights we have achieved invaluable results, including signing and ratifying the San Jose of Costa Rica Pact.

We must also mention the achievements of the Paraguayan people in the field of free association and the establishment of labor unions which, for the first time in our history, defend the rights of the devoted employees of public administration. Thus the enormous gap separating their salaries from those of private sector employees has been overcome, and one of the most obscure sources of administrative corruption has thus been eliminated.

One of our main concerns has been the situation of Paraguayan teachers. During my period in office teachers' salaries have been increased by 738 percent. Although this increase still proves insufficient, it clearly shows that my administration is concerned about being strictly fair. Through these social and political achievements, I have fulfilled my electoral promises to the people.

We must sincerely be honest, and admit that our country is now very different from the country in which we lived before 2 February 1989.

Now that calmness is returning after the loud voices of an election campaign have asked all Paraguayan for their preferences; now that the heated oratory duels—often heated because of the temper of the candidates, or perhaps as a result of the studied strategies which have highlighted the development of this election race—have ended; now that silence is returning to the streets, replacing the noisy and spontaneous caravans which are characteristic of a new way of doing politics, in total freedom and democracy, demonstrating the degree of participation, maturity and commitment of the Paraguayan people; the time has now come to rest and meditate before the act of voting in which each individual, alone with his conscience, must decide what is most suitable for the happiness of our motherland.

As we gather with our families to share the anxieties characteristic of the moments preceding an election, I want to consider every Paraguayan part of my family, and join with you in thinking of our future. Each of the citizen candidates who are contending for the presidency was born after the international war of 1932-1935 [Chaco War] and I dare to ask them to love peace, and to cultivate it so that whoever is elected might lead us down a just and prosperous path.

I did not fail my specific duties or status as a citizen when I expressed sympathy and support for a determined political formula during these elections. As in any democratic country in the world, the chief of state can also express his feelings and sympathy. And if the result of my administration is positive before the eyes of my fellow countrymen, I want the merits of my behavior to be attributed to the doctrine, tradition, and history of the Colorado Party founded by a hero, General Bernardino Caballero.

Finally, I must reiterate my firm and irreversible intention to make sure these elections are carried out in an atmosphere of openness and democracy so that the results will give total legitimacy to the next administration, as I understand that this achievement will be written in history for the honor and pride of all the Paraguayan people. Thank you.

Coalition Group Support Liberal Party Candidates

PY0505220993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 May 93 p 10

[Text] The top leaders of the political groups that make up the Democratic and Social Coalition have explained the basis of their support for the presidential candidates of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party].

Adolfo Ferreiro of the Democratic Action Movement emphasized the lifelong struggle of the PLRA candidates, which represents a real change in our country. He also pointed out the need for agreement above personal interests "to overcome hate and to achieve the desired national salvation."

Christian Democratic Party President Miguel Angel Montaner emphasized the importance of the document signed by these political groups, recalling that this document fulfills the objective of a "government of national unity" proposed by his party last year.

Referring to the importance of the agreement, Domingo Laino said: "Those who signed this agreement represent guarantees and credibility because many times the programs are good but the people are not so good. We will sponsor the formation of a government of national unity with men and women who represent the entire political and social spectrum."

The document has six basic points that summarize the goals to be achieved after winning the elections. The document was signed by Domingo Laino and Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin for the PLRA; Miguel Angel Montaner and Luis Alfonso Resck for the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]; Carlos Aurelio Benitez Garcia and Nils Candia for the Rafael Franco Multisectorial Movement of the PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party]; Oscar Rodriguez Campuzano and Roberto Paredes for the Democratic and Social Coalition; and Adolfo Ferreiro and Adolfo Albospino for the Democratic Action Movement.

The Paraguayan Communist Party released a resolution deciding to support the PLRA presidential candidates. The resolution was released by the party president, Ananias Maidana.

A group of union leaders of the National Workers Federation headed by Eduardo Ojeda, candidate for deputy of the Democratic and Social Coalition for the

Central Department, has decided to support the presidential candidacy of Domingo Laino. Ojeda clarified, however, that the candidacies of the coalition for governor, departmental councilman, and deputies are maintained. Laino and Ojeda signed that electoral agreement at the PLRA headquarters.

Colorado Candidate Criticizes General's Remarks

PY0605142993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 May 93 p 5

[Text] Colorado Party presidential candidate Juan Carlos Wasmosy yesterday described the remark by General Lino Cesar Oviedo [1st Army Corps commander] that he wanted to see a continuation of a cogovernment between the Armed Forces and the Colorado Party as "unfortunate." Wasmosy gave a news conference with foreign and national correspondents at the Colorado Party Executive Board building.

Gen. Oviedo's intention to maintain the cogovernment between the Colorado Party and the Armed Forces was the main topic of foreign journalists who asked Wasmosy to state his position on the matter.

At first Wasmosy tried to justify Oviedo's remarks, saying that the officer was not a second-class citizen and that the remarks were made during a private meeting. Asked about Oviedo's remarks during the Colorado Party primary urging Colorados to vote for ticket No. 2 (Wasmosy-Seifart) in violation of the Electoral Code and the Constitution, Wasmosy said that Oviedo's public statements were "his responsibility" but did not say whether the officer deserved to be sanctioned.

When one of the journalists insisted that he was not giving a concrete answer regarding Oviedo's interference in partisan political matters, Wasmosy sharply said: "What do you want me to say?"

The Colorado Party candidate said that former dictator Alfredo Stroessner can return to the country but he will have to face the courts on charges of human rights violations and economic crimes.

Wasmosy repeated his stand in favor of the social market economy. He added that unprofitable public companies will be privatized without looking at foreign examples but following specific Paraguayan economic conditions.

Wasmosy said that impunity prevails only under a dictatorial system, adding that the democratic system thrives when there is respect for the law and the Constitution.

The candidate said the press must orient and educate society, avoiding a style of reporting that only favors media owners.

Asked about opposition candidates' proposal for a pluralist cabinet and his remarks about a solely Colorado Party administration, Wasmosy said that opposition figures will be accepted in his government. Wasmosy told a local reporter: "You know that President Rodriguez' administration includes ambassadors, and even ministers who are not Colorados."

Justice Minister Defends Oviedo's 'Partisan Activities'

PY0705011993 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 6 May 93 p 4

[Text] Justice and Labor Minister Oscar Paciello, who met with presidential Secretary General Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca this morning, noted that after the 9 May general elections "those who do not mess around with the military will not have any problems." Concerning General Lino Oviedo's remarks, Paciello pointed out that they did not violate electoral norms, as they simply represent a personal opinion and not an obvious political activity.

Voicing his opinion on the relationship between high-ranking Armed Forces members and the future civilian president of the Republic, the justice and labor minister stressed: "They have their own rules and regulations, namely Law 847, and will adjust to its provisions. In my opinion, those who do not mess around with them (the military) will not have any problems. They will also not have any problems if they do not mess around with civilians."

Later, Paciello was asked if this is not a mistaken idea, in the full knowledge that the military must be subordinated to civilian power. The minister responded that obviously all of us are mutually subordinated to each other by the fullfulment of our duties.

Do Not Get Angry With Oviedo

Minister Paciello continually rejected the idea that Gen. Oviedo's remarks were aimed at winning votes for the [Colorado Party] Ticket No. 1. Paciello emphasized: "What political remarks are you talking about? He just voiced his opinion; and if this is what he believes, why should we get angry? If everyone has his or her own opinion, why should we make such a great fuss about it?"

The minister said that if Oviedo or any other member of the military were to appear at a rally and ask those in attendance to take a given stance, it would indeed represent political activity.

The minister was reminded of the fact that Oviedo had urged people to vote for the Colorado Party candidate. The minister justified this action by pointing out: "That is his hope as a Colorado Party member. At any rate, what is wrong with his addressing his fellow party members? This does not represent a political activity, for the simple reason that it was a meeting of Colorado Party members and he does not have to convince them of anything."

Championing Pro-Government Colorado Party Members

Minister Paciello is not the only one championing the partisan activities carried out by Gen. Lino Oviedo. Several pro-government Colorado Party leaders have already expressed support for him "because he is the man who risked his life to begin the transition." This is another reason given for not observing the legal provisions which prohibit the military from engaging in partisan activities.

Open Letter Repudiates U.S. Ambassador

PY0605155793 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 May 93 p 10

[Paid advertisement by Rigoberto Arza Gonzalez]

[Text] This is a moment of great sensitivity in the Paraguayan transition process when the protagonist role of civilians should be revived. And most of the responsibility must fall on the Colorado Party, the government political organization which should strive to prevent a worsening of the confrontation between the opposition and the Armed Forces.

We have asserted more than once that there are essential parts of the transition mechanism that were not adjusted at the right time.

What was yesterday a veiled threat is today a reality: The threatened systematic settling of accounts is a sensation that makes one's skin crawl.

Perhaps we made a mistake, involuntarily or not, because the transition is not a real Paraguayan formula but one grafted, directed, and protected by U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman who, using his influence on some government sectors, sought to privilege the independent groups, which are nothing but shooting stars in the history of nations, above the hundred-year-old political parties which are the basic pillars of any democracy. This is why we "repudiate" from our deepest Paraguayan feelings the shameful and regrettable interference in our affairs, which is not the U.S. ambassador's responsibility. This situation interests and worries us because it concern the present and future destiny of the fatherland. We prefer to deal with it as Paraguayans and as Colorado Party members, "among Paraguayans" without discrimination or differences of any kind, among civilians and military, and not as military against civilians.

We want a transition with a Paraguayan recipe and not the grafted transition by the U.S. ambassador who advocates an independent candidate without a political party.

European Parliament President Interviewed

PY0605161693 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 6 May 93 p 19

["Exclusive" interview with European Parliament President Egon Klepsch by Ricardo Caballero Aquino "a few hours before leaving Paraguay"; place not given]

[Text] [Caballero] European interest in Latin America grows as democracy spreads in the region, right?

[Klepsch] Right. We are very happy with the democratization of the continent because, from a cultural and a historical viewpoint, Latin America is part of the European idea. Consequently, our cooperation will continue to increase.

[Caballero] With what part of Latin America?

[Klepsch] I believe ties between Mercosur [Common Market of the South] and the European Community will become much closer.

[Caballero] After your brief visit to Paraguay, what is your opinion of this country?

[Klepsch] I see a bright future. You meet several preconditions for successful political and economic development. I believe the decision to join Mercosur was wise because it will help to achieve stability.

[Caballero] Are you talking about political stability?

[Klepsch] Yes, though not only political but also economic and even monetary stability. I am pleased to confirm that Paraguay has controlled inflation, a major accomplishment in Latin America, because there are other countries that cannot control prices.

[Caballero] What is the significance of a low inflation rate?

[Klepsch] It promotes foreign investment, because a country with stable prices is attractive. Moreover, I believe growth indexes were or will be of 3.5 to 4 percent annually. Consequently, a promising future is indicated.

[Caballero] Do you think it is possible to compare Paraguay's joining Mercosur with Portugal's joining the European community, considering that they are relatively less-developed countries?

[Klepsch] I believe much can be learned from Portugal, but there is a basic difference between Mercosur and the EEC. The EEC provides for transferring part of each member's sovereignty to the Community. Portugal can be a good example, because this country will be able to accept a common currency at the latest in 1999. This will be a great leap forward for that country.

[Caballero] What prevents Latin America from selling more products to Europe?

[Klepsch] Regional trade will unfailingly grow, but the main obstacle now might be quality, which has to improve so that products may have easier access to our market.

[Caballero] Is Europe ready to buy more?

[Klepsch] Well, we are going through a difficult time which has to do with the incorporation of EFTA [European Free Trade Agreement] countries, which are the

other important western European countries like Switzerland, Norway, and Sweden.

[Caballero] What will happen with formerly Communist European countries?

[Klepsch] That is another problem that we have to tackle. Those countries are very poor and have been destroyed by the economic system. Latin America will be a very important commercial partner for Europe, even more important than other parts of the world.

[Caballero] What are the basis of the relations with Paraguay?

[Klepsch] It is very simple. From Europe we should continue to extend our support for the main development areas of the region. Both Paraguay and Argentina have bright opportunities for increasing bilateral trade with Europe.

[Caballero] What are those areas?

[Klepsch] Democracy and a free market economy, obviously. The events on 9 May in Paraguay will be beneficial for everyone, because they will show that the country can freely and orderly elect its own political future.

[Caballero] Why do Paraguay and Germany have such close cultural ties?

[Klepsch] Many Germans immigrated to Paraguay. They liked Paraguay and have stayed here for generations. It is true that they work hard, but the country also allowed them to achieve success and to progress. Families remain in contact, thus creating a true community. From a cultural viewpoint, Germans feel fine in Latin America.

[Caballero] What solution does the European Parliament envisage for the former Yugoslavia?

[Klepsch] We are very concerned because this shows that the treaty, the way it is, is not sufficient. We should also have a treaty dealing with the defense and security of the countries of the region, because now we have no appropriate instrument for making community decisions in this area.

[Caballero] Are you planning to change that?

[Klepsch] I believe we will have a new treaty in the next two or three years, a treaty that will establish the power to take concrete action, because we all know the horror of killing. Yet it should be considered that part of the former Yugoslavia, Slovenia, has remained totally outside of the conflict and has achieved good general development.

[Caballero] Is the United Nations sufficient?

[Klepsch] I must be careful with this issue; it is not, because even though some weapons have been banned, the killings and massacres continue. An end should be put to all this. It is not enough to say that the one who was murdered had the right to be protected. This right should be enforced with a more efficient legal instrument.

[Caballero] Finally, concerning the United States, will Europe be a partner or a competitor?

[Klepsch] In the world family, we should all be partners and friends. We cannot have an isolated European fortress, or an isolated, separated, and self-sufficient United States. We are sailing in the same ship and should all work together to resolve the world's pressing problems, like the one in Somalia.

[Caballero] Or in the former USSR?

[Klepsch] Right, these problems are so big that it is necessary to have the cooperation of Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia, and the developed countries of Southeastern Asia. They should all contribute to creating a more peaceful world with more dignity for its inhabitants.

Government Disburses Unpaid Netherlands Debt

PY0605143593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 May 93 p 18

[Text] On 30 April, the government ended the delay in paying the debt that it has had with The Netherlands for some years now. This debt was a headache for local negotiators of foreign loans due to our country's poor image before international creditors and complicated the approval of new loans.

Some $9 million of the unpaid debt has now been paid. The current debt with The Netherlands, which is a member of the Paris Club, today amounts to some $4.8 million.

Most of the debt had been contracted by the Public Works Ministry for a communications system in the Paraguayan Chaco and the rest was used to equip the Ciudad del Este airport.

The balance of the debt will be paid over 7 years, in other words, 14 promissory notes of $200,000 each were signed. The negotiators have also achieved and important reduction regarding back taxes and deadlines similar to those obtained in the negotiations with France.

Central Bank Reports on Foreign Debt Payments

PY0705002393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 6 May 93 p 18

[Text] According to Finance Ministry and Central Bank officials, at this moment our country's foreign debt amounts to nearly $1.2282 billion, of which amount $40 million is in arrears. The unpaid debt was caused by Brazil's delay in paying royalties for the use of the Paraguayan share of the Itaipu dam's electric energy.

Another reason for the halt in foreign debt payments is a low rate of tax collections during the first quarter, which prevented the country from fulfilling its budget commitments.

The foreign debt payments are financed to a great extent through Itaipu dam royalties, and to a lesser extent with regular Treasury revenues (tax collections).

Between January and April of this year, the government did not pay a single dollar of its debt with commercial banks. The administration was, however, able to fulfill its obligations with the Paris Club and with other multilateral credit organizations.

These payments were possible thanks to a loan of 125 billion guaranies that the Central Bank made to the Finance Ministry.

Paris Club organizations received $9.5 million. The money was used to pay the OECF [Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund Japan] (some $588,000) and the debt in arrears with the Netherlands. A total of $11.2 million was paid to multilateral credit organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, Fonplata [River Plate Basin Development Fund], the IDA [International Development Association], and AID.

Total payments amounted to $20.7 million, and the debt now stands at $1.2282 billion, including $40 million in arrears, according to the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank.

Of the total foreign debt, 51 percent is owed to multilateral credit organizations, 47 percent to Paris Club organizations, and the rest (0.6 percent) [as published] is owed to international commercial banks.

The greatest portion of the arrears—41 percent—are owed by central government organizations. Autonomous organizations owe 38 percent of this total, while state financing organizations (BNF [National Development Bank], the Livestock Raising Fund, BCP [Paraguayan Central Bank], IPVU [Housing and Urban Planning Institute], etc.) owe the remaining 20 percent.

Peru

Rumors of 'Frustrated' Coup Attempt Against Fujimori Said Circulating

PA0605154493 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1513 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Lima, 6 May (DPA)—Various rumors of an alleged frustrated coup d'etat against President Alberto Fujimori were circulating on the morning of 6 May in Lima, but so far the truth of those rumors has not been established.

It is said that an Army sector led by General Rodolfo Robles mobilized early this morning but that the action was thwarted by forces loyal to President Alberto Fujimori.

DPA has tried to obtain information from different sources about what occurred, but so far there is official silence and the primary local radio stations have not touched the subject.

The rumors added that Robles reportedly took refuge in an embassy or is under house arrest. An unidentified spokesman of the Venezuelan Embassy (which is open despite the suspension of relations between the two countries) denied it has received the officer.

Robles was recently appointed to a diplomatic post abroad, an action that frustrated his rising career in the Army. This is supposedly what increased the discontent that, according to opposition circles, exists in military sectors.

If the conjectures are confirmed, it would be the second military attempt to oust Fujimori. Another rebellion led by retired General Jaime Salinas was frustrated on 13 November. Salinas is now serving an eight-year prison sentence.

Government 'Emphatically' Denies Rumors

PA0605181593 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1753 GMT 6 May 93

[Report by Maritza Lopez from the Government Palace in Lima]

[Text] We inform you at this time that the Presidency of the Republic, through the Government Palace Press Secretariat, emphatically denies rumors that a new coup attempt was made early this morning. The Presidency also denied that there had been an unusual deployment of troops around the palace or that any military officer had requested asylum in an embassy in this country.

The Press Secretariat said the denial will be made with full details in an official communique to be issued in the next few hours. Government Palace official spokesman Carlos Orellana said the president spent the night in the Government Palace and at present is working in his office as usual. We will provide additional information at any moment.

General Said To Seek Asylum at U.S. Embassy

PA0605211893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2059 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Nelly Montoya de Robles has denied that husband Army General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza is involved in any coup d'etat plot against President Alberto Fujimori. Nevertheless, Mrs. Montoya de Robles has reported that, due to security reasons, her husband and two sons sought asylum at the U.S. Embassy in Lima.

Army Says Charges 'Groundless'

PA0705044993 Paris AFP in Spanish 0342 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Lima, 6 May (AFP)—In a communique, the Peruvian Army refuted General Rodolfo Robles' charges against Commander Nicolas Hermoza as a "violator of the human rights" in Peru.

Robles, who sought refuge at the U.S. Embassy in Lima after a confusing military incident, is the first Peruvian officer to accuse several Army members of perpetrating violations of basic rights, such as "extrajudicial executions."

The communique says Robles' charges "are groundless and constitute malicious assertions by someone who has not abided by the rules of military ethics."

Despite the lies in Robles' handwritten letter, "it has been sent to the Supreme Council's War Room for whatever investigations are deemed necessary," the communique says.

Also in a communique, the Army refuted media reports on a thwarted military coup in Peru.

Army Command Denies Rumors on 'Irregularities'

PA0605220993 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2130 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Peruvian Army High Command has denied rumors on irregularities in the deployment of troops near the government building early this morning.

In an official communique, the command has affirmed its unwavering position in the defense of democratic order and flatly rejects this type of rumor, which harms the country's stability and prestige.

Council of Ministers President on Rumors

PA0705021793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 May 93

[Interview with Oscar de la Puente, president of the Peruvian Council of Ministers, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [De la Puente] I completely deny that. Any mention of a coup d'etat is to speak about something that does not exist and that has not existed. This has to do with an officer on active duty who had not been given any certainty that the number of relatives who could accompany him to the site where he had been assigned as representative of the military institution—the Inter-American Defense Board—could be expanded. The officer asked that his sons accompany him. He was asked for his sons' age, and it was established that they are an Army captain and an Army lieutenant, both adults, and for this reason there was no reason for the family arrangement. It was asked that the two officers be discharged. This was not granted. Then came all the accusations and this battery of irresponsible reports.

[Correspondent] What is the explanation for this officer apparently requesting political asylum at the U.S. Embassy?
[De la Puente] No asylum has been requested or granted. The general can leave Peru with his family whenever he finds it suitable to leave, enjoying all the securities that the joint command, the Foreign Ministry, and the government are giving him.

[Correspondent] Some say he is in the embassy already.
[De la Puente] Apparently, he is at the residence of a diplomat from another country. Efforts are being made so that they leave the country without restrictions. Whoever wants to leave the country may do so.

[Correspondent] Will they have diplomatic passports?
[De la Puente] There is no need for diplomatic passports. They may leave with their identification papers and either their natural or special passports since they are members of the Peruvian Army.

[Correspondent] What about the unusual movement of troops early this morning around the government palace?
[De la Puente] The military high command has completely denied this. The command said that it was a routine mobilization. It happens that an effort is being made to give this mobilization a significance it does not possess. We have to give events their true significance. This has been a personal position of an Army officer on active duty who wants to voluntarily leave the country. It has been reported that he has not tried to produce an uprising but that he simply wanted protection so that all his family could travel with him.

[Correspondent] Would you characterize this action as insubordination, maybe?
[De la Puente] This was the free decision of an Army officer who wants to leave the country. He is welcome to do that.

[Correspondent] Does he feel threatened?
[De la Puente] There is no threat. There is no political or military pressure on him.

[Reporter] Was it a plot?
[De la Puente] No, there was no plot.

[Correspondent] What about what his wife said?
[De la Puente] She, logically, finds herself in a situation and she wants to help her family and her husband, which is what they want, so she has to make some sort of statements that are sapping the country's stability because she is making charges, and if the general did know about people missing in La Cantuta, if the charges were true, why did her husband wait until the last minute to make them. He is a military man in active service, and he should have filed charges before, otherwise he acted as an accomplice. However, I ask you on behalf of the government, to keep this at the significance level that this matter deserves. This is a situation that has to do strictly with a military officer in active service who wants to leave the country.

[Correspondent] Are there ill intentions behind these rumors? Does the government feel that someone is promoting these rumors?
[De la Puente] Evidently, there are international reports about circumstances like the one being mentioned. Conjecture and speculation on news make reports appear more important and more spectacular. Peru, however, has other problems with which to be concerned. We have been able to secure our full reintegration in the international community. We have been declared eligible. Foreign investments are pouring into Peru. Let us all make an effort to exude this image. Let us not inflate a domestic matter. Let's keep it in its proper perspective. That gentleman can leave today or tonight. There is no restriction or pressure. There is no reason for granting asylum, first, because it has not been requested, and second, because there is no reason for denying it. If he has an airplane, he can leave right now.

[Correspondent] Will he be discharged?
[De la Puente] That is a domestic military matter. It has nothing to do with the country's image. Let us struggle to improve the country's image and not to destroy all the efforts the government has made to get out of this situation.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct].
[De la Puente] What I know so far is that his request to travel with his family was not granted and that is why this show has been mounted. To request family traveling privileges, an officer may invoke family unity involving minors, but not when the children are an Army captain and an Army lieutenant, the children in this case—his sons—are both adults. Logically, the Army cannot yield to pressure from an officer regardless of how high his rank may be. So let's keep this in its proper perspective. This is a domestic matter. Let's call it a domestic military matter. There has been no coup, no movement. I have been working routinely with the president as if nothing had occurred because nothing has occurred. We continue to work for Peru. Let Congress pass laws, improve the Constitution, and oversee the work of the government, of the Executive Branch, as it manages the country's development, and you: Help us improve our image.

Fujimori Comments on CLAE Investigation

PA0605202293 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has denied there was any kind of pressure in the Superintendency of Banks' intervention in the Latin American Business Advisory Center [CLAE]. Fujimori said the Superintendency had acted correctly to safeguard the investors' savings. Here is what President Fujimori told unidentified reporters:

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] I do not take into account biased considerations. I believe the procedure in the CLAE case was correct. Fortunately, the auditing is locating certain amounts of cash. This is probably the result of coordination among the CLAE directors. The Superintendency will allow them to handle operations up to an established amount. The important thing here is to avoid the repetition of cases such as the (?Repisa) and the savings and loans. We must avoid a run on the money by the large investors. This is what must be avoided. The Superintendency has acted very cautiously, precisely to recover the trust in the financial institutions.

[Reporters, all shouting]

[Reporter, interrupting]...have you identified with the banks the new directors of the Administration for Pension Funds? Do you believe this will create a climate of uncertainty, as has been stated by CLAE customers?
[Fujimori] All to the contrary. The activities of the Administration for Pension Funds are open to everyone, not only to local and foreign investors. I would say instead that new investment opportunities are opened.

[Reporter] Was the CLAE intervention really done to protect the customers' savings or was this done to favor the nation's bankers?
[Fujimori] There has been some gossip in this regard. This explains to me how things were handled by previous governments—that is, there was influence peddling by important members of the political parties in power at the time. Therefore, operations were most certainly carried out to favor certain interests. This does not exist at all now. I regret, I regret [repeats himself] that public media—which I had considered to be serious—launched this untruth—that is, that a member of the banking association had coordinated with the Presidential Palace or with the Superintendency. These are procedures totally removed from this government. We act in a totally impartial way, in compliance with the law. [end recording]

Superintendency Reportedly Suspends CLAE's Intervention

PA0705012793 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Superintendency of Banks has reportedly confirmed the suspension of a 60-day intervention in the Latin American Business Advisory Center [CLAE]. The CLAE offices will reportedly reopen on 6 May to continue serving their investors.

A communique from the Superintendency of Banks reportedly reveals it will maintain a permanent presence in that enterprise during the aforementioned period, to evaluate its financial situation.

CCD Abolishes Approval of Military Promotions

PA0605230093 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Armed Forces and police promotions no longer will require confirmation by Congress. The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] Constitution Commission on 5 May approved an article that modifies the 1979

Constitution law to that effect. During the morning session the representatives discussed defense and national security issues.

The Constitution Commission, chaired by Carlos Torres y Torres Lara, unanimously approved four articles of the chapter on security and national defense which reiterates, among other things, that national defense is permanent and comprehensive and unfolds in domestic and foreign spheres, under the president's leadership.

Regarding integration treaties, the commission postponed the debate on the three proposals set forth to replace Article 106, which established that such agreements with Latin American states must prevail over multilateral agreements.

Diplomat Juan Miguel Bacula also visited with the commission and spoke for 45 minutes on the subject of sea supremacy, an issue that will be debated at a later date. Nevertheless, the most important decision made by the commission was the abolition of the Congress' ability to confirm top military and police promotions, which will now be conferred in accordance with the law.

Congressman Carlos Ferrero Costa supported the article, saying that to some extent it will curb the sway of political influence on promotions.

[Begin Ferrero recording] Military promotions should not depend on Congress but on a persons' career, merits, internal regulation requirements, and autonomously adopted decisions. I believe we have taken a step forward by preserving the institutionality and professionalism of our armed institutions. Henceforth, they will be free of the Legislative Branch's political power and free of having to ask favors of Congress. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Congressman Enrique Chirinos Soto opposed the reduction of congressional responsibilities.

[Begin recording] [Chirinos] I fought to prevent the parliamentary majority from amputating an essential congressional responsibility, which is the confirmation of military promotions. This violates our constitutional tradition. It is an attack on the Congress' sovereignty.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you not believe that perhaps this measure will limit the political influence....
[Chirinos, interrupting] No, I do not believe so; my experience indicates otherwise. Congress used to confirm officers based on their merits and we have never perpetrated any injustices. [end recording]

Fujimori Discusses Restructuring Foreign Debt

PA0605192693 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Paris Club member nations agreed to restructure Peru's foreign debt with special conditions, the Peruvian Embassy in Washington reported on 5 May. Among the agreements reached in Paris is the negotiation of payment deadlines for $3.5 billion. The agreement will reduce by $1.885 billion the payment of Peruvian obligations to creditors in the next two years. A communique issued by the French Ministry of Economy, representing the Paris Club, indicated that the Peruvian Government will make payments on the restructured amounts over a 20-year period for public aid development programs and over a 15-year period for other credits. According to the same communique, the representatives of the lender nations took into account Peruvian Government efforts to reactivate the economy.

In this regard, President Alberto Fujimori said renegotiating Peru's foreign debt with the Paris Club produced positive results for Peru. Fujimori said the Paris Club member nations have been quite understanding about the Peruvian situation. During negotiations with the Peruvian delegation, aspects that allow the planning of the Peruvian budget until 1995 were taken into account. Here is what President Fujimori said to an unidentified reporter:

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Negotiations with the Paris Club are practically over. I believe the Paris Club members have been quite thorough with the Peruvian situation. They have considered points that allow us to plan our budget until 1995 and at the same time to reduce the debt. We initially estimated the Paris Club disbursement would be about $340 million annually. This amount has now been raised to approximately $400 million; however, this is compensated by other measures that will allow very sound budget management. The negotiations have been very favorable. Peru's reinsertion has been practically concluded. All that remains is negotiating with the international banking system.

[Reporter] What was the Paris Club response to the Peruvian situation?
[Fujimori] We will be given the details in a few days. The bilateral negotiations come next. The negotiations with the Paris Club provide the framework for these negotiations, country by country. This will takes some time—at least several months. [end of recording]

Venezuela

Perez Denies Resignation Rumors, Urges Court Ruling

PA0605165893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez, in his regular Thursday [6 May] radio address, voiced his deep concern about rumors circulating on 5 May of his alleged resignation. In statements to the country, the president said he will remain as head of the executive branch and will continue to exercise his functions as president as long as the Supreme Court decisions permit.

According to the president, he does not want to challenge the decision by the Supreme Court president, who is acting as the proposer of the accusation filed by the attorney general against Perez, the former interior relations minister, and the presidency secretary. According to national press reports, the court president would therefore be inclined to ask for a trial against the president.

The president said he cannot go against the Supreme Court president because he does not know the text of the document, which is part of the confidentiality of the proceedings.

Given the unfounded rumors, the president stated that his position corresponds to that of president and is in line with his credentials as a fighter for democracy. In other words, he will remain at the head of the country and asked the Supreme Court to issue its ruling on this matter as soon as possible to avoid affecting the nation's path with ill-intentioned, unfounded rumors.

To conclude, the president asked citizens to wait patiently for the Court's decision.

Court Refuses To Expedite Ruling

PA0605201793 Paris AFP in Spanish 1915 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Caracas, 6 May (AFP)—The Supreme Court of Justice at 1200 on 6 May sent a public note to President Carlos Andres Perez advising him it will not expedite a ruling on whether he will be tried for embezzlement of public funds. Sources of the top justice tribunal said the 15 judges will not expedite a ruling on whether there are grounds for a trial and will actually use the legal period specified by Supreme Court law of up to 15 days to make a public ruling. The president on 5 and 6 May urged the Supreme Court to expedite the ruling to spare the nation a long period of suspense "that could create many national and international problems," he told the nation in a 6 May radio address. Perez made this request after it was revealed on 5 May that a report drafted by Court President Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro on whether Perez should be tried for the scandal unleashed by the dollars subsidized with secret Interior Ministry funds is unfavorable to the president. Perez' stand is the same as that of the Social Christian Party of Christian democratic leaning, the main opposition party. Leaders of the ruling Democratic Action party of social democratic leaning on 6 May confirmed that Perez will resign should the court ruling be unfavorable.

Supreme Court President Comments

PA0605224793 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio in Spanish 2207 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] According to a reply that Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, addressed to President Carlos Andres Perez, Article 6 of the Court's organic law takes into consideration the possibility that complex matters may require a longer time and that, therefore, it is up to Court magistrates to determine the length of time to be spent on the study of the proposal for the pretrial [prejuicio].

In this communication, the pretrial is not declared a subject fit for an urgent meeting and no date is set for the Court plenum to decide on the pretrial. These two requests were filed by Perez on 5 May.

Interior Minister Discusses Case

PA0605233493 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio in Spanish 2213 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Interior Affairs Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona agreed with the attorney general that the proceedings against President Carlos Andres Perez are vitiated because the president does not have access to the Supreme Court case file.

[Begin Carmona recording, in progress] ...cutting off the liberty set forth in the Constitution, such as due process and the right to defense. Therefore, that is enough to declare null everything that has taken place up to now. I repeat, this is essentially a state problem. I do not know if the president of the Republic intends to use this argument before the Supreme Court of Justice. [end recording]

Nevertheless, outstanding jurist Aquiles Monagas said that at no time has Perez' right to defense been violated during the procedure followed in the Supreme Court of Justice in connection with the 250 million bolivares, as stated by Interior Affairs Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona. Carmona said he will request an annulment of the entire procedure.

[Begin Monagas recording] To my way of thinking, nothing has been violated. We are before the Republic's top tribunal, which will be known in the plenary. They [not further identified] said at one time that they would appeal—I do not know if this would be before a celestial court because there is no appeal to a Supreme Court of Justice ruling. I do not believe that the right to defense has been violated. What has been confirmed by the Comptroller General's Office commission is the disaster done with the money; this is a fraud against the nation. This is very serious because that is corruption at the pinnacle of power. [end recording]

Former Interior Affairs Minister Alejandro Izaguirre reiterated that the responsibility over the destination given to the secret fund's 250 million bolivares falls mainly on the president of the republic.

[Begin Izaguirre recording] The minister received instructions from the president of the Republic. Not even the president himself has denied this, neither the tribunals nor the investigation commissions where I have appeared because I have no interest in shying away from the responsibility. I have been very clear and explicit about this. [end recording]

Izaguirre said he would be a big hypocrite if he said he felt at ease and added that he has tried to be honest in all his acts.

[Begin Izaguirre recording] Of course, in this situation and at my age, it is extremely worrying. I am sure and I have faith that justice will clarify the facts and will find who is responsible. [end recording]

These statements by former Minister Izaguirre were made at the Supreme Court of Justice, where he requested a copy of the pretrial documentation. According to him, he has found out through the media and has not been notified as the law specifies, which could cause an unfortunate decision.

Riot Reported in Barquisimeto, Los Teques, Maracay

PA0605190293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1707 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Caracas, 6 May (NOTIMEX)—An outbreak of street riots and demonstrations in three cities took place on 6 May in Venezuela while tension remains over the possible request for the impeachment of President Carlos Andres Perez. Hooded demonstrators burned a cargo truck in Barquisimeto, 350 km west of Caracas, while groups of teachers, who have been on strike since April, blocked the highway joining the west with the center of the country, Radio Rumbos reported. Other street demonstrators demanded payment of past due retirement checks and rejected the dismissal of public employees in Los Teques, 25 km southwest of Caracas, and in Maracay, 100 km to the west. No injuries or arrests were reported. Angel Zambrano, minister of the Central Information Office, pointed out at the government palace that "there is tranquillity and absolute normalcy" in the country and that all activities of the Perez administration remain normal. The main political parties have urged the people to remain calm while the Supreme Court decides whether to approve a request for the president's impeachment on charges of embezzlement and corruption. Except for the isolated protests in Barquisimeto, Los Teques, and Maracay, there was a suspenseful atmosphere in Venezuela at about 1200 (1600 GMT).

Foreign Minister Cited on Relations With Peru, Suriname

PA0505161893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 4 May 93

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich has said our country is not interested currently in restoring diplomatic relations with Peru. He added, however, that any decision in that regard must be made by the president of the Republic.

Minister Ochoa Antich made that statement when asked to comment on Colombia's proposal to Peru at the Rio meeting to seek a rapprochement with our country, to which Peru did not respond. Now Peru will have to state its desire to resume diplomatic relations with Venezuela.

Ochoa Antich held a news conference to report on his trip to Europe, where he informed German, Belgian, and EEC officials of the tranquillity that prevails in Venezuela after the 1992 incidents.

Among other topics discussed at the news conference, Ochoa Antich clarified that Venezuela will not to form an alliance with Suriname to handle its border dispute with Brazil [name of country as heard].

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] I believe the exact interpretation of his [not further identified] words should be that we discussed the problem of relations between Venezuela and Guyana, as well as between Guyana and Suriname. As you know, both Venezuela and Suriname are holding talks with Guyana to settle border disputes. In no way, however, have we discussed the possibility of Suriname and Venezuela establishing common objectives with regard to our demands. [end recording]

Ochoa Antich announced that he will soon travel to Colombia and Quito, Ecuador, where he will continue promoting Venezuela's image abroad.